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BUDAPEST TELEVISION INTERVIEWS HAWATIMAH, 'ARAFAT

LD130136Y Budapest Domestic Television Service in Hungarian 1800 GMT 12 Feb 78 LD

[Interview by Alajos Chrudinak with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP], and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, during a break in the final session of the Algiers steadfastness summit--recorded, with Hawatimah's and 'Arafat's answers in Arabic with translation superimposed]

[Excerpts] [Chrudinak] During a break in the final session, we met Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the DPFLP. Mr Nayif Hawatimah, what is your opinion of the political statement that has just been issued?

[Hawatimah] I must honestly admit that I was counting on a much vaguer and less substantial political statement.

[Chrudinak] (?But as) one of the authors of the statement, what is your view of the result of the long, hard discussions?

[Hawatimah] It is the opinion of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine that the political statement of the Algiers summit represents a step forward in contrast with the Tripoli statement. The Algiers statement supplements and clarifies the strategic direction of the front of steadfastness, namely, by dealing in detail with Iran's reactionary and imperialist armed intervention. In Oman this aggression threatens Oman's independence, Southern Yemen's security and the fight for national independence of the Persian Gulf. The statement resolutely condemns the reactionary military intervention by Morocco and Mauritania in the domestic affairs of Western Sahara and also takes a stand against imperialist maneuvers in the Horn of Africa and the entire Africa Continent. The resolute and clear stand adopted in these questions is a significant advance for the policy of the progressive front.

[Chrudinak] Leaving this aside, it can be said that the political statement is a principled and resolute stand. But will it be followed by practical deeds in order to (?isolate) As-Sadat's plans and policies? What measures can we expect?

[Hawatimah] I am convinced that the political strategic statement of the Algiers summit will make it possible to wage the struggle against As-Sadat's policy and maneuvers for (?concession) seriously and resolutely. This statement once and for all does away with the false and harmful slogan that incited Arab reaction to unity and solidarity. Sadly, this slogan was able to exist for 10 years, and thus Arab reaction used it to strengthen the position of the United States in the area and preserve the situation produced as a result of Israeli Zionist aggression.

[Chrudinak] The statement also warns Jordan, since Jordan wants to follow in As-Sadat's footsteps.

[Hawatimah] Husayn has declared that if circumstances permit, he too will join the capitulation talks. In the appropriate circumstances the king [words indistinct] the plan whereby the Palestinian people is totally stripped of its lawful national rights and an artificial Palestinian national homeland would be set up on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the coming 5 or 10 years, an artificial homeland which would be utterly dependent on Jordan, on the Jordanian Kingdom, and (?would be) part of the projected united Arab kingdom.

[Chrudinak] Do you think Iraq will join the front of progressive Arab countries?

[Hawatimah] To tell the truth, we have done everything to achieve this. The Palestinians have been striving for this for a long time and more recently Algeria has made serious efforts to win over Iraq. But if Iraq decides to stay away from the front, that is a negative behavior that lacks the realism characteristic of the revolutionary. Israel and Arab reaction would profit from a step like that, for the negative behavior of any progressive Arab power is only grist to the mills of As-Sadat, the Americans, Zionism and reaction in the Middle East.

[Chrudinak] After the final session of the Algiers summit of the progressive Arab countries, we had the following conversation with Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization:

Mr Yasir 'Arafat, now that I have heard the published political statement, my only worry is whether concrete practical steps will follow it.

['Arafat] They undoubtedly will. We have already made many practical arrangements, but of course I cannot say too much about them. However, I can say that these arrangements will shortly make themselves felt. Our aim is to strengthen, consolidate and make efficient (?this front) of the progressive Arab forces.

[Chrudinak] As far as I know, you intend to send a letter to the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

['Arafat] Yes, and also to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, too.

[Chrudinak] What are these letters about?

['Arafat] They define the essence of other messages of mine. As I said to my colleagues at this summit, in the letters I expound in detail the policy of the Palestine Liberation Organization. This organization is the sole legal and official representative of the Palestinian people, and only this organization can speak on behalf of the Palestinian people. Calm, settlements and peace can only come about in the area if (?we obtain the granting) of the rights of this long-suffering people, including the right to return to their homeland and the right to self-determination, and also the right to establish an independent state on their home territory.

[Chrudinak] So this means--and this finds expression in the political statement--that Anwar as-Sadat, the Egyptian president, is in no way empowered to speak in your name.

['Arafat] I have said that not only President as-Sadat but no one else, no other Arab leader, is thus empowered. For there are others who would like to speak on our behalf. So it is not only a question of As-Sadat. Not a single Arab president can speak on our behalf. During his latest visit, Secretary of State Vance, and then his representative Atherton, attempted to create something, to find some people to take the place of the Palestine Liberation Organization. But we are not alone in our struggle. We are not alone. At every moment we feel that many people support us. At our side stand this summit and the Arab peoples from the Atlantic Ocean to the Persian Gulf.

We are supported by our friends the socialist countries, the African states, the nonalined states and the Islamic countries. So, as you can see, we are not alone. At the latest vote in the United Nations, 109 countries voted with the Palestine Liberation Organization. That is to say, 109 states recognize us. During the past 30 years, Israel has not been recognized by as many as 109 countries. I am very surprised that over the past 22 days 17 statements have been made by President Carter, Brzezinski, his chief national security adviser, and Secretary of State Vance, against the Palestine Liberation Organization.

[Chrudinak] What do you intend doing, what will happen if King Husayn decides--and I think he has already decided--to join As-Sadat's mission?

['Arafat] I have always said--and it is the only thing I can say now--please try, do it. I can only say to the Americans: If they find someone in the Arab world who solves the problem for them, then carry on. But there is no such (?force). Only the Palestine revolution is capable of providing the solution--no one else. I should like to bring to the notice of world opinion that nothing in the Arab area can be solved to the detriment of the Palestinians.

PAPER SAYS 'ARAFAT TO VISIT MOSCOW THIS MONTH

NC120901Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0840 GMT 12 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 12 February--In a dispatch from Damascus the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM today reports that a Palestinian delegation consisting of representatives of all Palestinian revolution groups and led by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will go to the Soviet Union at the end of this month. The visit is to last for several days and is for the purpose of securing political and military support for the organization.

Quoting reliable sources in the Syrian capital, the paper says that the Soviet Union has agreed in principle to supply arms to the Palestinian resistance and that the requests the organization had submitted to Moscow are being given serious consideration.

The sources confirmed to the paper that the resistance has not yet received any arms from the Soviet Union directly, although it has received advanced Soviet weapons through a third party.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH GDR AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON

LD101808Y East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1645 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Today in Beirut Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, received Achim Reichardt, the GDR ambassador to Lebanon, for a friendly talk. Ambassador Reichardt conveyed to the chairman the cordial greetings of Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the State Council, which were most cordially reciprocated by Yasir 'Arafat.

Yasir 'Arafat spoke about the results of the recent Arab summit conference in Algiers and about the machinations by imperialist and Zionist forces in the Middle East, and in Lebanon in particular. Ambassador Reichardt condemned the new attacks by Israel on southern Lebanon. He expressed the solidarity and support of the GDR for the progressive Arab forces and the PLO in their fight for a peaceful, just and lasting settlement to the Middle East conflict, and to guarantee the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to form their own state.

'ARAFAT CABLES CONGRATULATIONS TO SYRIAN PRESIDENT

JN1014422 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 10 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, on his reelection for a second presidential term. The following is the text of the cable:

His Excellency brother President Hafiz al-Asad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic--Damascus:

The unanimity of the steadfast Syrian people in reelecting you as president of the Syrian Arab Republic for the second presidential term is another proof of the confidence of the Syrian Arab masses in you and their support for your wise leadership. It is also evidence of their support of the policy of steadfastness which you are following in the confrontation against imperialism, Zionism and their agents in the Arab area.

On behalf of the Palestinian people, the PLO Executive Committee and all fighters in all positions and in my own name, I extend to you wholehearted congratulations for the confidence of your great people in you.

I am confident that through your wise leadership of your Syrian Arab people, you will continue to lead Arab Syria for the good of the Arab nation and will [words indistinct] its pan-Arab, unionist course.

ICATU CONFERENCE OPENS IN KUWAIT; EGYPT WALKS OUT

JN1318SBY Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 13 February--The International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU] extraordinary conference was opened here this evening. Kuwaiti Labor and Social Affairs Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah as-Salim opened the conference with a speech welcoming the delegates participating in the conference. Following that Nasir al-Faraj, president of the General Federation of the Kuwaiti Workers, spoke. He said: The Kuwaiti working class has condemned and denounced As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem as it constitutes a concession and a retreat in front of the imperialist-Zionist onslaught on the Arab national liberation movement.

'Ali al-Muwalla, secretary general of the ICATU, reviewed the struggle of the Arab working class. He said: The Arab working class is against As-Sadat's visit to occupied Palestine. Al-Muwalla denounced the measures applied by the Tunisian authorities against the Tunisian workers. He also affirmed the Arab working class support of the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese nationalist movement and the world liberation movements.

The extraordinary conference is being attended by labor delegations of 18 federations which are members of the ICATU.

The Egyptian delegation walked out following the speech delivered by the president of the General Federation of the Kuwaiti Workers.

The extraordinary conference of the ICATU, which will last 4 days, will discuss the conditions of the labor movement, the political situation in the Arab area, and the role of the working class in the struggle against the imperialist and Zionist designs.

KUWAIT

TURKISH CYPRIOT DELEGATION VISITS, MEETS MINISTERS

TA141442Y Bayrak Radio [Clandestine] in Turkish to Cyprus 1130 GMT 14 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The amir of Kuwait has assured the Turkish Cypriot Islamic Association delegation which is currently visiting Kuwait that his country will assist the Turkish Cypriot community in solving its political and economic problems.

The three-man delegation consisting of Sinasi Basaran, Aziz Beyli and Tevfik Akif has been in Kuwait for the last 5 days. Basaran told ANATOLIA Lefkose [Nicosia] bureau that great interest is being shown in the delegation in Kuwait. He added that Kuwaiti officials assured the delegation that they will do all in their power to help their Moslem brothers in Cyprus solve their problems.

The delegation was received by the Kuwaiti AWQAF and Islamic affairs minister, Yusuf Jasim Hajaji, last weekend. The delegation then conducted a briefing at the ministry on the problems of the Moslem Turkish Cypriot community in Cyprus. The delegation also met with the Kuwaiti foreign, commerce and oil ministers. In these meetings the delegation outlined the major projects of the federated state and gave information on the religious center being built in Lefkose. The delegation also invited various prominent businessmen and journalists to the federated state. The delegation is also expected to be received by the amir of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti press has given prominent coverage to the delegation's visit and the federated state. The Kuwaiti dailies AL-WATAN and KUWAIT TIMES SHUWEIHH have carried special reports on the Turkish federated state of Cyprus.

ROMANIAN FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIAL DUMITRU BEJAN RECEIVED

LD122105Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Feb 78 LD

[Text] His highness the exalted ruler at 0930 today received Oil Minister 'Abd al-Mutalib 'Abd al-Husayn al-Kazimi, who presented to him Dumitru Bejan, Romanian minister-secretary of state for foreign trade, and the accompanying delegation on the occasion of their visit to Kuwait. The audience was also attended by the Romanian ambassador.

SAUDI ARABIA

DEPUTY PREMIER DISCUSSES LEBANESE PROBLEMS

LD141932Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Feb 78 LD

[Text] His Royal Highness Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, has called for Arab harmony and solidarity. He said that the Arabs are in need of farsighted policies which are not dependent on circumstances. They should not [word indistinct] peace nor should they take war lightly. He declared that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom is against all forms of partition in Lebanon and in the Arab homeland in general.

In an interview he gave today to the chief editor of Lebanon's AN-NAHAR, his royal highness said that partition in Lebanon [words indistinct]. It will be the greatest catastrophe for the Arabs. Lebanon is [word indistinct] for the good of the Arabs and they must cling to [word indistinct] and safeguard it.

He delcared that the kingdom is following with extreme and constant concern the recent developments in Lebanon. He said this is not just because Lebanon is a dear fraternal Arab country but also because it is important to Arab and international policies. He affirmed that the kingdom supports, bolsters and continues to strengthen with all its capabilities all that helps to safeguard Lebanon, its sovereignty, the unity of its people and land, and the dignity of its people. He said that the kingdom supports with all its force President Sarkis of Lebanon and the Lebanese institutions, the foremost of which is the Lebanese Army. He called on the Lebanese to establish national harmony and to solve their problems and the problems of Lebanon and to rebuild it. His royal highness added that the kingdom will stand by the Lebanese people and government with all its material and fraternal capabilities to realize this harmony and achieve rebuilding.

His royal highness warned of the gravity of the situation in Lebanon, saying that what has taken place and what Lebanon has been exposed to so far [words indistinct] no other country in the world has endured. He said that Israel alone is the one benefiting from the dispute in Lebanon and that everybody else is a loser. They will lose still more if they do not put an end to the conflicts and do not learn from what has happened, which has brought catastrophe to all. His royal highness affirmed that the kingdom cares for the Lebanese inside Lebanon and in the kingdom. It continues to increase and expand economic and trade relations between the two countries and in all fields.

On the Arab situation His Royal Highness Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said that, when the Arabs look upon their interests and the interests of the others realistically, they can solve their problems from the Lebanese problem to the Middle East, to all the world crises which concern them. His royal highness declared that the kingdom is eager to befriend all. It respects the USSR as a big power with its weight in the world. It is also a friend of the United States. He added that the kingdom considers that all countries have their own interests and act in accordance with these interests, and that none of the big powers gives anything free.

UAE

OIL PRODUCTION IN GULF OILFIELD TO BE SUSPENDED

NC1411154Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1120 GMT 14 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 February--A petroleum source here said today that production from Al-Bunduq oilfield will be suspended for 6 weeks as of the middle of March to carry out necessary maintenance and modify the production units in the field. It is known that the Al-Bunduq field is a joint oilfield and that Abu Dhabi and the State of Qatar share its royalties equally. The field is 27 km southwest of Das Island, which has been chosen as headquarters for the field's operations.

BILL PASSED PROHIBITING OWNERSHIP BY FOREIGNERS

NC1411933Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1845 GMT 14 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 February--The UAE Federal National Assembly today approved a bill prohibiting foreigners from owning real estate and land. The bill was amended so as to give foreigners a period of 6 years to dispose of their property by transferring it to nationals or citizens of the Arab Gulf state as provided for in the law.

The bill gives the government the right to act at any time and in any way to dispose of such property within this period. The bill will be referred to the Council of Ministers and the Federal Supreme Council for approval and enactment.

BAN ANNOUNCED ON TRADE IN, POSSESSION OF ARMS

NC111934Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1845 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 February--UAE Interior Minister Shaykh Mubarak ibn Muhammad issued two decisions today banning trade in and possession of firearms and ammunition in the state.

The first decision calls on arms and ammunition dealers who are engaged in the business of importing and selling arms to hand over all the arms, ammunition, and related documents in their possession to the responsible police directorate. The decision emphasizes that the Interior Ministry will pursue anyone who fails to hand over the arms in his possession within 2 weeks, starting today.

The second decision requests every resident in the UAE who is not a UAE national and who has arms, ammunition, or explosives in his possesion, whether licensed or not, to hand them over to the nearest police station. The decision calls on citizens who possess unlicensed arms or explosives to proceed immediately to the police directorate in the emirate in which they reside to go through the necessary licensing procedure.

The decision gives UAE nationals and foreigners a month to put things right in this connection so that they will not be charged with violating the provisions of the decision. It is worth noting that these two decisions implement the UAE Supreme Council's decision last December related to the prohibition of trade in arms and ammunition in the UAE.

AMBASSADOR DENIES DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ABU DHABI, DUBAI

JN111815Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Sayf Sa'id, the United Arab Emirates ambassador to the Yemen Arab Republic, has denied that there are any differences between the amirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai, or that a state of alert exists on their borders.

He further stated that what has been carried by certain news agencies and broadcasting stations about concentrations on the borders between the amirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai, after the promotion and appointment of His Highness Col Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid to the post of commander in chief of the UAE Armed Forces, is groundless.

The ambassador stressed in his statement that this appointment is in the interests of the federation and dictated by the circumstances of the state. He said that the Amirate of Dubai and the other amirates seriously and loyally seek to consolidate the pillars of the union and that each amirate will do all it can to strengthen this union, with all its capabilities.

He stressed that the news agencies and broadcasting stations which carried such news aim at creating confusion in this part of the Arab homeland, which is doing its best to bolster Arab solidarity for the good of the Arab and Islamic nation.

YEMEN--PDRY

ITALIAN CP DELEGATION BEGINS TALKS WITH OFFICIALS

LD1015547 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Summary] The first round of official talks between delegations from the National Front and the Italian Communist Party opened in Aden this morning. The Yemeni side was headed by 'Abd al-'Aziz Abd al-Wali, member of the Political Bureau, minister of industry and acting minister of planning; and the Italian side by Comrade Dario Valori, member of the Directorate of the Italian Communist Party. "Bilateral relations, the situation in the Middle East, the Horn of Africa and Italy, including the cabinet crisis and the recent fall of the minority government, were reviewed. During the talks, the delegation from the Italian Communist Party affirmed the party's view that the Italian Cabinet crisis could be solved by the formation of a coalition government in which all Italian parties would be represented.

"With regard to the Middle East issue, the National Front and the Italian Communist Party affirmed their consistent stand and their insistence on the need for the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from all occupied Arab territories and the right to self-determination by the Palestinian Arab people, led by their legitimate representative, the PLO. The Italian Communist Party affirmed its resolute stand on the side of the progressive Arab states in their just struggle against imperialism and Zionism. On the situation in the Horn of Africa, the two sides called for a peaceful solution of the problems between the warring parties. On the situation in Europe, the two sides emphasized the need for disarmament and the consolidation of the foundations of just peace on the principle of equality of rights and duties of states."

YEMEN--YAR

AL-GHASHMI RECEIVES NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR

JN121230Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the armed forces, received in his office this morning His Excellency Kim Yong-il, ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in San'a'. During the meeting, talks were held on relations between the two friendly countries.

AL-GHASHMI RECEIVES ALGERIAN LABOR MINISTER

JN111509Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Feb 78 JN

[Text] At 1030 today, brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the armed forces, received in his office at the republican palace Dr Mohamed Amir, Algerian minister of labor and vocational training, who arrived in San'a' this morning on a visit of several days to the Yemen Arab Republic.

After the meeting Dr Amir made a statement to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY in which he said: I am very pleased to meet His Excellency Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, to whom I have conveyed the greetings and best wishes of his brother President Houari Boumediene and the Algerian people. He added that during the meeting he held brotherly talks with brother Al-Ghashmi on cooperation and exchange of expertise in the field of youth between the two fraternal countries.

The meeting was attended by brother 'Abd as-Salam Muhammad Muqbil, minister of labor, social affairs and youth, and the Algerian charge d'affaires in San'a'.

MENA REPORTS AS-SADAT INTERVIEW EN ROUTE TO CAIRO

NC141734Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 14 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 February--President Anwar as-Sadat has affirmed that his visit to the United States came at the appropriate time, clarified all aspects of the Egyptian stand and dotted the i's.

President as-Sadat said that U.S. President Jimmy Carter has realized the dimensions of Egypt's decision to withdraw its delegation from the Jerusalem discussions and that members of the U.S. Senate and House completely understood the real Egyptian position in the peace process in the Middle East.

In an interview given to Mrs Himmat Mustafa yesterday while on his way back to Cairo, President as-Sadat added that he has asked the United States to carry out its role in full since it is a partner, not a mediator, and since it is the main party on which Israel completely depends.

In his interview which will be broadcast by television at 2100 Cairo time today, President as-Sadat says that he explained to the Americans that the Israeli obduracy was based on the U.S. arms and U.S. political and economic support given to Israel.

In his interview, President as-Sadat praised the support given to the peace initiative by world public opinion. He noted that hundreds of millions of people in the states he visited during his tour expressed their conviction in and support for the initiative based on the fact that it belongs to all the world.

He added: In every place I visited everybody affirmed their support for Egypt's peace efforts and their determination to help maintain these efforts. In this respect President as-Sadat praised the support of Pope Paul VI. He said he was deeply moved by the pope's discussion in supporting the efforts for peace. He noted that his meeting with the pope lasted 30 minutes, instead of 5 minutes as previously scheduled.

President as-Sadat said that he has promised the pope to keep him informed of all future developments in the Middle East issue. He also promised to invite him to visit the Sinai when peace is achieved, since President as-Sadat intends to build a mosque, a church and a Jewish synagogue on the mountain where Moses spoke to God. President as-Sadat added: The three religions are originally the same. In doing this deed on this site I want to illustrate this fact clearly.

President as-Sadat said: We must prove to the world to which we have given the first civilization--since from our land emerged the three heavenly religions--that faith and love are the basic elements of life and that the return to God will save humanity from the terrible crises it is suffering because of the bad civilization which has corrupted our values and our youth.

RADIO REPORTS U.S. DECISION TO SELL PLANES TO EGYPT

NC141925Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Quoting U.S. administration sources, news agencies report that U.S. President Jimmy Carter today decided to approve the sale of about 50 F-5 fighter planes to Egypt and 60 F-15's to Saudi Arabia. Israel had received 25 F-15's. It is now seeking another 25 F-15's and 150 F-16's.

U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Defense Secretary Harold Brown will hold a press conference tonight to announce the measures which the U.S. administration will take concerning the sale of the new U.S. jet fighters to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

HASAN AT-TUHAMI RETURNS FROM VISIT TO PRC, DPRK

NC141204Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 February--Muhammad Hasan at-Tuhami, deputy prime minister at the presidency and envoy of President as-Sadat, returned to Cairo this morning following the conclusion of his visit to the People's Republic of China and the DPRK.

FIRST INVESTMENT CONFERENCE OPENS IN CAIRO 14 FEB

Mamduh Salim Address

NC141238Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 14 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 14 February--This morning Prime Minister Mamduh Salim opened the first conference on investment, which is attended by 1,000 Arab and foreign investors whose investment projects are being implemented in Egypt. The conference will discuss the difficulties facing investors and the ways to overcome them.

Prime Minister Salim delivered a speech at the opening session of the conference, which is being held at the premises of the An-Nasr Imports and Exports Company on the third anniversary of the Investment Authority.

The prime minister said that the open door policy is the fruit of the great initiative undertaken by President Anwar as-Sadat in the early seventies for complete openness in the world--political, ideological, economic and social openness. The prime minister noted that the open door policy began to bear fruit after the October war, particularly after September 1975, when the world atmosphere became appropriate for the investment of Arab and foreign capital in Egypt.

Prime Minister Salim said that although the investment projects have faced certain difficulties, these projects have progressed a great deal within a short time. In 1976, 78 projects worth 233 million pounds were implemented. In 1977, 191 projects worth 342 million pounds were implemented. This is in addition to 271 projects in the free-zone areas.

Prime Minister Salim affirmed that Egypt is doing all it can to encourage investors and is exerting intense efforts in this respect, in its belief that the open door policy is a strategic national policy to make up for what we suffered in the past. He said that the open door policy has provided the necessary funds for development projects, which were brought almost to a standstill in the sixties when in some years the average growth rate was only 1.5 percent. He added that this policy is in line with Egypt's goal of economic revitalization, increased employment opportunities and activation of idle Egyptian potential.

The prime minister said he has issued instructions to the ministers and relevant departments to furnish any information that the investors may request about the Egyptian economy. He noted that in the past 2 years more than 20 laws and decisions have been issued to liberalize the Egyptian economy.

Prime Minister Salim said that several agreements have been signed for oil prospecting in Egypt. The total investments in this sphere reached $2 billion. Thirty-four joint investment banks have also been established. Some of these banks have given 150 million pounds for financing certain projects.

The prime minister said that the rate of economic growth in Egypt has reached 12 percent. He said the problem of short-term loans has been solved, in cooperation with the gulf organization for the development of Egypt. These loans have been turned into medium- and long-term loans.

Decision for Investors Issued

NC141822Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 February--Minister of Interior Maj Gen Nabawi Isma'il today issued a decision encouraging foreigners to reside in Egypt and allowing investors to stay for a period of 3 years, which will be renewable, instead of the 1-year period allowed at present.

The decision provides for granting investors a return visa valid for several journeys for a period of 1 year and a return visa for the investor's family valid for several journeys for a period of 6 months. The decision also provides for setting up a passport and residence section especially for investors at the Investment Authority, to facilitate the applications for residence and return visa permits.

The interior minister issued this decision on the occasion of the convening of the first conference on investment projects in order to encourage investments in Egypt and to facilitate the activities of foreign investors.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OFFICIAL MEETS WITH U.S. JEWS

NC132205Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2056 GMT 13 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 February--Dr Layla Takla, deputy chairwoman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, has said that Israel's security is mainly linked with the complete withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967 and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Dr Layla Takla stressed that real security lies not in a piece of land but in the desire for peace and in all parties upholding justice. She described Israel as working against itself and against its security because its adherence to expansionist designs threatens its security. In addition, its denial of the Palestinians' rights reduces the chances of peace.

At today's meeting between the Foreign Relations Committee and a delegation of American Jewish community leaders now visiting Egypt, Dr Layla Takla said that Israeli leaders have not yet understood the meaning of President as-Sadat's initiative and that Begin continues to make statements that are full of distortions. She added that some of Begin's actions were improper and were harmful to all the Jewish people, not only to the people of Israel.

Dr Layla Takla affirmed that the foremost and strongest source of Israel's security should be good relations with its neighbors. The settlements will not preserve Israel's security but will be detrimental; they are mere pretexts for expansion.

Dr Layla Takla explained that Egypt has in fact shown its desire for peace while Israel continues to hinder the peace process. Dr Robert (Schafers), the leader of the delegation, affirmed that the Palestinians have the right to establish their state on the condition that Israel's security is guaranteed. He added that President as-Sadat's initiative has shown to the whole world the extent of Egypt's sincere desire for peace and that the Israeli people have understood the initiative.

STUDENTS DEPORTED FROM EGYPT ARRIVE IN BAGHDAD

JN141731Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 February--A new group of Palestinian students deported by As-Sadat's regime arrived here today. The students, who have spent 17 days in the jails of the Egyptian regime, said that the treatment they received from the oppressive Egyptian police was inhuman. They said that they were asked questions exactly like those asked the Arab strugglers in the jails of the Zionist enemy by the Zionist occupation authorities.

The deported students said that a number of Palestinian students are still under arrest in the jails of As-Sadat's regime in Alexandria, charged with distributing pamphlets against the regime. The arrests and deportations are still continuing.

ATH-THAWARAH COMMENTS ON IRAQI-SYRIAN RELATIONS

LD141752Y Baghdad ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Feb 78 pp 1, 7 LD

[Part five of serialized article: "The Aftermath of As-Sadat's Visit to the Occupied Territory; What Happened and What Is Required at the Present Stage"]

[Text] For many years several Arab parties have been reiterating that the main stumbling block to the establishment of a progressive Arab front is the "Syrian-Iraqi dispute." These Arab parties say that had it not been for this dispute there would not have been such problems and objections nor would Iraq have stipulated conditions which the Syrian regime so vehemently rejects.

During these years many spoke to us about the need to settle this dispute and to meet with the Syrian regime on any level in order to strengthen Arab solidarity or to form a progressive Arab front in order to face the deteriorating Arab situation. In this part we will deal with all the aspects of the so-called "Iraqi-Syrian" dispute. There is the party aspect which we will not deal with because it is an elaborate and complex matter and many say it is difficult to understand. Therefore, we shall confine ourselves to the discussion of the other aspects of the problem which everyone can clearly understand. Everyone can also differentiate between the wrong and right in it.

Some people blame Iraq for this dispute and say that it is "outbidding" the Syrian regime and imposing unacceptable conditions and so and so forth. Others say that Iraq is adopting such a hardline stand because it does not wish to shoulder the burden of the national battle and, therefore, is contented with outbidding and with putting forth such difficult conditions, which it knows in advance are unacceptable. In this manner Iraq will free itself of burdens and commitments.

Let us discuss these claims precisely and frankly. Let us suppose for argument's sake that all that Iraq says concerning the Syrian regime on the basis of the nationalist and socialist principles of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party does not represent a basic stand but rather reflects its own selfish interests and stems purely from its own conditions. Is this true?

In order to know the truth we must decide whether Iraq--from a standpoint of its own interests and not of principles--will lose or gain if it reconciles with the Syrian regime the way this regime wishes.

When the October war broke out Iraqi-Syrian relations were as bad as they are now. Nevertheless, Iraq participated in the war with a major military force and its forces were pouring into the front throughout the days of the battle until the Syrian regime decided on a cease-fire. Iraq then withdrew its forces from the Syrian front because there was nothing more they could do there.

Iraq, therefore, shouldered its responsibilities and made the required sacrifices. The Iraqis did this when the Syrians fought, despite their bad relations with the Syrian regime.

Since the agreement on the disengagement of forces on the Golan Heights, the Syrian regime has not fired a single shot at the enemy. Therefore, it has not needed any military assistance--nor was Iraq requested to make sacrifices of a combat nature.

What the Syrian regime has been doing in the past years is to pursue a policy of settlement. Therefore, what heavy commitments does Iraq have to shoulder in the Syrian regime's political moves toward a settlement so that Syria can avoid them and thus be free? None, of course.

Perhaps some would say that Iraq should have given the Syrian regime economic assistance during these years and that by creating this dispute with the Syrian regime, Iraq wants to rid itself of this responsibility. If we accept this argument, how much economic assistance did Iraq have to give the Syrian regime--$100, $200, $300 million annually? Is this the price that Iraq wanted to avoid paying by creating disputes with the Syrian regime? Let us discuss the matter in figures.

The dispute between Iraq and Syria has led to the following results:

1. The Syrian regime deprived Iraq of a substantial part of its share in the Euphrates waters that irrigate a large part of the farmland in Iraq.

2. The Syrian regime imposed extortionist and unacceptable conditions on Iraq in order to permit Iraqi oil to flow through Syria. As a result, the Iraqi oil pipeline passing through Syria and which carries 55 million tons of oil annually stopped operating.

3. The Syrian regime deprived Iraq of all the facilities it enjoyed in Syrian ports as well as from transit trade through Syrian territory. It even seized a large number of Iraqi trucks passing through its territory.

On all three points Iraq alone suffered damages, while the Syrian regime suffered damages only on the second point. This is because the Syrian regime obtains revenues and other benefits from the passage of oil through its territory, including the employment of labor, the operation of electric powerstations along this line and other benefits, which at a maximum are estimated at $250 to $300 million. On the other hand, any economist can estimate that the damage suffered by Iraq as a result of the closure of the pipeline is many times more than the loss suffered by the Syrian regime.

So who is the loser in the dispute between Iraq and Syria from the standpoint of economics and not national principles? Any objective person can easily conclude that Iraq is the loser. It is losing its share of the Euphrates waters which is worth millions; it is losing its trade facilities in Syrian ports and territory which is also worth millions; and it is also losing an oil outlet on the Syrian coast which is worth millions. Can any ruler acting on the basis of his "own interests" suffer all these losses simply for the sake of outbidding and extremism?

This then is the situation. For many years the Syrian regime has been pursuing the policy of settlement. This does not entail any taxes that Iraq must pay. In response to those who reiterate such lies we would like to ask: Would it not have been easier and more profitable for Iraq to "buy" its good relations with Syria in return for $100, $200, or $300 million annually in "brotherly aid" that would be reported in the press in banner headlines and applauded by the media and, in the meantime, obtain economic benefits several times the amount of this money?

What is the high price which, according to the claims of many, Iraq is avoiding by refusing to stand in the same line with the Syrian regime and the PLO regarding the methods they have chosen for the liberation of the land? What would Iraq lose in adopting the stand that the Syrian regime is seeking and applauding?

Everyone knows that such a stand in the Arab political market is free; there is no tax on it except the exchange of visits and embraces and making statements supporting the steadfast Syrian stand.

Let us also ask: What would Iraq gain from adopting a stand that is free of charge and giving up "outbiddings" and "extremism" which, as they claim, it is using as a pretext to avoid "major" commitments?

The answer is that in addition to the economic gains to which we referred and which Iraq could reap from supporting the Syrian stand, it would free itself of all the existing political problems between itself and both the East and the West concerning the Palestinian problem and the occupied Arab territories. There would be no more disputes, arguments and headaches; its stand would be in harmony with the "brothers" and friends. Everyone knows that such a stand would achieve many political and economic gains if the objective were to seek gains and avoid losses.

If the Iraqi regime were to view matters from the point of view of its own interests and if it wanted to shun its national responsibilities, as they claim, it would not have adopted the stand it is adopting today. It would have adopted the stand that many insist on: namely, to endorse the policies of the Syrian regime or, at least, not to oppose them. But Iraq refused this and will continue to refuse it because it is the Iraq of Al-Ba'th, because it is the base of Arab revolution, and because it is the nation's impregnable bastion that will not concede or bargain, even if it is losing today so that it will gain tomorrow.

Here we must also touch on two more points:

First, when Iraq is losing economically because of its strained relations with the Syrian regime it finds nobody to compensate it for this loss, whereas several parties have in the past compensated Syria and are still compensating it for the partial loss it is suffering because of the stoppage of the flow of oil in the pipeline.

In fact, these parties have compensated the Syrian regime several times its losses. This is not a secret for it is known by all. Everyone knows that the bags of money that are placed at the disposal of the Syrian regime when its relations with Iraq are strained would be withdrawn once the relations improve in accordance with the national basis and principle which Iraq defines.

The Syrian ruler, as is well known, is a "shrewd ruler" who certainly knows how to manipulate. According to an old saying, "once the motive is known there is no more surprise."

The other point which is being brought up by the Syrian regime is the question of building an oil pipeline via Turkey. The Syrian regime, as its leader told the delegation of the permanent secretariat [not further specified], considers Iraq's decision on building this pipeline as "antinational" and aimed at harming Syria.

We do not wish to talk about the party that is responsible for halting the flow of oil through Syria nor do we wish to recall the extortionist and even conspiratorial actions of the Syrian regime during the battle of nationalization that Iraq fought in 1972, before we brought our battle with the monopolist companies to a conclusion, and in which we were then forced to accept them. We would even say--and this is a well-known fact to all--that the oil pipeline via Turkey was a vital project that had to be carried out even if Iraq and Syria were one country and under one command. This is because of the following reasons:

1. Any major oil-producing country like Iraq must provide itself with every possible outlet for oil export. This is economical and legitimate.

2. The pipeline passing through Syria and the Syrian laoding ports is vulnerable to sabotage by the Zionist enemy, whether during fighting or in times of tension. Even if Iraq and Syria were one country they would need alternative outlets for oil export in all circumstances.

3. All the neighboring countries are trying to strengthen their bilateral relations through a network of economic interest of mutual benefit. Turkey is a neighbor state and we have every desire to have normal and good relations with it. Therefore, it is logical that we should have joint interests with it. The oil pipeline is one such interest.

4. The final point is a technical one. The oil exported through the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline is not the same oil exported through the Iraqi-Syrian pipeline. It is a different project. Technical oil experts realize that the substitute for the oil that usually flows through the Iraqi-Syrian pipeline is the oil that is being exported through the strategic Hadithah-Fao oil pipeline and not through the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline.

This is the story of the pipeline. Is the Syrian regime unaware of these facts? Or does it want, through telling such lies and distortions about the pipeline, to deprive Iraq of export outlets so that it can blackmail it as it did several years ago before the Hadithah-Fao strategic pipeline was built and before this [Iraqi-Turkish] pipeline was built?

With such falsifications the Syrian regime is covering up its conspiratorial and anti-national attitude toward Iraq, the attitude for which it is being generously paid by well-known parties. We know well that when the Syrian regime raises this subject it is not complaining of material damage it has suffered as much as it is expressing intense anger. This is because in 1972 it tried to put the Iraqi economy in a noose but failed, and its hopes were frustrated thanks to the strategic precautionary measures that were taken by a revolutionary command which knows with whom it is dealing and how to deal with them.

The remainder of the points will be dealt with in the next article.

IRANIAN ARMY CHIEF VISITS HOLY PLACES IN KARBALA'

JN1420157 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Iranian Chief of Staff Gen Gholam Reza Azhari and the accompanying delegation today visited the holy places in the Karbala' Governorate. The Iranian guest and the accompanying delegation also toured historical, cultural and tourist sites. The delegation was received and accompanied by a number of officials in the governorate.

Delivers Message to Al-Bakr

JN1509497 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 February--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received this morning Iranian Chief of Staff Gen Gholam Reza Azhari. General Azhari conveyed a message to President al-Bakr from His Imperial Majesty Shahanshah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi containing his majesty's personal greetings and wishes to the president for continued health and happiness and for the relations between the two neighboring countries to further progress in the service of their mutual interests. The meeting was attended by the chief of staff and the Iranian ambassador in Baghdad.

OAPEC OFFICIAL HOLDS TALKS WITH OIL MINISTER

JN1418337 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 February--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council RCC member and oil minister, held talks this evening with Dr 'Ali 'Atiqah, secretary general of OAPEC. During the meeting they discussed several topics related to the work of the organization, foremost of which are the preparations for establishing the Arab oil training institute.

OAPEC previously decided to establish the institute in Baghdad, within the framework of the projects it is carrying out in the Arab countries with the aim of achieving Arab economic integration.

Concludes Visit

JN1509467 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 February--Dr 'Ali 'Atiqah, secretary general of OAPEC, left Baghdad today following a 2-day visit to Iraq.

While in Iraq, Dr 'Atiqah had talks with Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, member of the RCC and minister of oil. The talks dealt with the preparations for setting up the Arab oil training institute, which will be submitted to the next meeting of OAPEC for approval. In a statement to INA, Dr 'Atiqah expressed his hope that the Arab member states will contribute to supporting this institute.

MAURITANIAN MINISTER CONFERS WITH BA'TH OFFICIAL

JN141519Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 February--Ba'th Party Assistant Secretary General Dr Munif ar-Razzaz met today with Mr Baro Abdoulaye, member of the Politburo of the Mauritanian People's Party and minister of planning and mines, and the accompanying delegation. Dr ar-Razzaz reviewed the general Arab situation and the means to strengthen relations between the Ba'th Party and the Mauritanian People's Party in all fields. He stressed the importance of developing relations between the two countries and said that the imperialist presence of a number of Arab countries causes us to be in the forefront of the fateful Arab causes. Dr ar-Razzaz added: Therefore, we are aiming at unifying the progressive forces in the Arab world and raising them from the purely political level to the revolutionary level.

The Mauritanian minister expressed the gratitude of the Mauritanian Government and people for the principled stand of the Ba'th Party toward Mauritania and praised the existing relations between the two fraternal countries.

The Mauritanian delegation has been on a visit to Iraq for the past few days.

Concludes Visit

JN150936Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 February--Baro Abdoulaye, member of the Politburo of the Mauritanian People's Party and minister of planning and mines, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command.

The Mauritanian official stated that he discussed with officials at the National Command the relations between the two parties and the situation in the Arab arena.

ERITREAN FRONT LEADER ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

JN142125Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] An Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] delegation led by Ahmad Nasir, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and head of the ELF Executive Committee, arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit of several days to Iraq at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command.

Nasir said he will hold talks with comrades in the Ba'th Party on the latest developments in the current Arab situation, particularly those involving the Eritrean revolution, the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa. He praised the support given by the leadership of the Ba'th Party and the Iraqi revolution to the struggle of the Eritrean people. He was received at the airport by Comrade Abu 'Ala'.

GDR COMPANY TO BUILD OBSERVATORY IN IRAQ

JN141619Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1418 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] The Iraqi Institute for Scientific Research today signed a contract with the (Karl Seis) Company of the GDR to build an Iraqi astronomy observatory in the northern region at a cost of 5 million Iraqi dinars. The contract was signed for the Iraqi institute by its director, Dr Hatif Hammudi al-Jalil, and for the GDR company by its exports manager.

The contract stipulates the construction of two telescopes; the first with a diameter of 2 meters and the second with a diameter of 1 meter. A research laboratory will be attached to the observatory. The observatory will be the biggest in the Middle East and will offer the results of its research to all countries. It will work in the fields of space and astronomy observation.

The contract also stipulates that the German side will train the Iraqi scientists who will supervise the work of the observatory.

The signing of the contract comes after a wide-scale search by the astronomy department of the institute to ascertain the best site for the observatory and the best equipment for its construction.

In a speech on the occasion, the director of the institute said that the building of the observatory reflects Iraq's interest in science. He added that the Iraqi astronomy observatory will be a symbol of the fruitful cooperation between the scientists of Iraq and the GDR.

HUNGARIAN ACADEMIC DELEGATION LEAVES BAGHDAD

JN141315Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 February--The delegation of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences headed by Dr Lang Istvan, deputy secretary general of the academy, left Baghdad today after a 1-week visit to Iraq. Dr Istvan said that the delegation signed a protocol with the Iraqi Institute for Scientific Research to exchange information, expertise and visits between the two countries and to strengthen cooperation between them in the scientific fields.

MINISTER LEAVES FOR SAUDI ARABIA TO OPEN TRADE FAIR

JN150936Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 February--'Ali Nasir, RCC member and minister of trade, left for Jidda today to attend the opening ceremony of the Iraqi Trade Fair, which opens there today and will last 3 days.

In a statement prior to his departure, the Iraqi minister stated that the fair is being held in Saudi Arabia in order to strengthen and develop relations between the two fraternal countries. He also said that holding the fair there complies with the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the first conference of ministers of trade and economy of gulf countries, convened here in early October last year, to consolidate and expand joint cooperation between gulf countries.

Concluding his statement, the minister stressed that through these activities Iraq is looking forward to implementing the aims of Arab economic unity and its basic pillars and to provide for the free movement of citizens and capital among Arab countries.

KING HUSAYN TO MAKE PRIVATE VISIT TO BRITAIN

JN141545Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1540 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 14 February--In the next 2 days, His Majesty King Husayn will make a private visit of several days to the United Kingdom to spend a vacation with Prince 'Ali and Princess Haya, his majesty's children.

RADIO REPORTS MIDEAST NEWS, ANSWERS DAYAN REMARKS

JN141515Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] News agency reports say that yesterday's White House statement reiterating the U.S. stand on the Israeli policy of settlement in the occupied Arab territories has met with displeasure in Israeli circles. The United States strongly reaffirmed that it considers these settlements as an obstacle to peace and that they are against international law. Reports say that this White House statement, issued a few days after President as-Sadat's visit, reflects the U.S. administration's conviction of the seriousness of the Arabs in their peace efforts. Israel is only trying to procrastinate, not wanting to reveal its expansionist intentions in case it should want to sign the declaration of principles demanded by Egypt.

U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis and Israeli Prime Minister Begin met for 1 and 1/2 hours today. UPI says the discussions dealt with U.S.-Israeli differences. The U.S. ambassador said after the meeting that Carter and Begin might meet in the near future. He said that he discussed with Begin the negotiations between Egypt and Israel and what Alfred Atherton will do when he returns to the Middle East. It will be recalled that Begin and Lewis have met four times in the past 4 days.

In reply to a question on the prevailing opinion among the U.S. officials that a certain rigidity exists in the U.S. attitude toward the Israeli settlements, Lewis said he did not consider this matter a new element. He said that the U.S. stand on the Israeli settlements in the West Bank, the Golan Heights and Sinai which were occupied in 1967 will never change.

A spokesman of the Israeli prime minister affirmed that relations between Israel and the United States were discussed [presumably during Lewis-Begin meeting] in addition to Atherton's coming trip. Begin is scheduled to make a statement on U.S.-Israeli relations tomorrow for the Knesset.

On another level, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has assailed Jordan for its refusal to take part in the current peace negotiations. In this statement, Dayan is trying to absolve his government of the guilt of obstructing the peace negotiations. He alleged that Jordan's non-participation in the talks is the main obstacle to the resumption of the negotiations. Dayan said that As-Sadat is sincere in his declaration that he will not conclude a separate peace with Israel. He added that Egypt cannot conclude a peace agreement without the participation of some other Arab sides.

PAPERS COMMENT ON DAYAN REMARKS IN U.S.

JN1509355Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Jordan and Peace Talks," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: During the information campaign he is carrying out in Chicago, Dayan has invented a new dictum that Jordan's refraining from joining the negotiating table with Israel now constitutes a major obstacle to the resumption of the peace talks in the Middle East.

The paper says: With this reversed logic, Israel's foreign minister spoke to his listeners. Naturally, he did not tell them anything about Jordan's clear position on the talks, a position outlined by His Majesty King Husayn in his interview with the French news agency a few days ago.

In that interview, King Husayn explained that Jordan's participation in the peace talks is linked to their seriousness. This seriousness must appear not only through a declaration of principles, reiterating what is included in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, but also in Israel's adherence, according to a fixed timetable, to all that is included in these two resolutions, including the inadmissibility of annexing territories occupied by force. This clearly means that Israel must accept complete withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war, with Arab Jerusalem in the forefront, and must enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right of self-determination on their soil.

The paper further says: To stick in such a manner to a guarantee of the seriousness of the talks cannot be considered as setting preconditions, for the adherence to the will of the international community as a basis for settling the conflict does not represent a condition, but is one of the self-evident things which cannot be foregone if peace talks are to proceed on a clear path leading to the establishment of a permanent and honorable peace in our region.

There is no doubt that without a minimum seriousness in the talks, they will only lead to a revolving process in a closed circle, bordered by vituperations, bargaining and futile arguments. This is a result which Israel hopes to achieve to enable it to take the time element from the hands of the Arabs and exploit this element to proceed with its expansionist and settlement policies, while negotiations continue. This is what Jordan refuses and warns about.

Undoubtedly, Dayan is well aware of the Jordanian position. Therefore, his accusation that Jordan is hindering the resumption of peace talks is a clear fallacy, coupled with ill intentions. It is a new proof that the Israeli logic, which reverses facts in broad daylight, has not changed a bit. This does not encourage one to begin a serious dialog with Israel.

AD-DUSTUR concludes by saying: Undoubtedly, Israel will bear a big responsibility before the world if it perseveres in its intransigence and pushes the region toward the grave dangers evident to the beholder. It would be better for Israel to reconsider its choices and to opt for peace instead of keeping the occupied territories. Otherwise, the variety of fallacies--the ones in which it accuses Egypt of inflexibility or Jordan with hindering the resumption of the peace talks--will not save it from the responsibility.

On the same subject, AL-AKHBAR newspaper writes: The statement made by Dayan is just a desperate and exposed attempt to divert the attention, particularly of U.S. public opinion, from Israel's intransigent position, which remains far below the level of the Egyptian president's initiative and which keeps holding on to old and obsolete ideas and concepts, dating back 4000 years.

The paper says: From the beginning Jordan has been clear with itself and with others when it determined its position from the latest initiatives in the region, and when it affirmed the basic conditions for a just and lasting peace. Israel alone continues to avoid even declaring its acceptance of this decision and its readiness to implement its clauses. Israel alone is the one which continues to exploit the time element to entrench its occupation of the Arab territories and establish settlements under the pretexts of security and its God-given right to the land, contrary to UN resolutions and the will of the international community. This Israeli position is the one which has blocked the will for peace in the region and is the one which nearly places the initiative of the Egyptian president in a deadlock, robbing Israel, before any other party, of a golden and irreplaceable historic opportunity.

The AL-AKHBAR paper says Jordan has placed before Israel only two choices: either the land or peace. Israel so far has chosen the land and shunned peace.

PAPER SAYS ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS PROGRAM HUMILIATES U.S.

JN1101215Y Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Feb 78 p 2 JN

[Editorial]

[Text] Once again, we witness the ungracious spectacle of the United States being humbled by Israel, as the United States issues newer and stronger statements condemning Israeli settlements in occupied Arab lands while Israel goes ahead merrily building new settlements wherever it feels like doing so. The damage in this process is not the Middle East, where the Israeli settlements are a way of life, but rather the real damage is in the dropping credibility of the United States. Every time the Americans repeat their objections to Israeli settlements, the voice of American indignation grows a little less forceful, a little less awesome and a little less convincing, in view of how Israel continues doing whatever it feels like in the occupied Arab territories.

The missing element in the American position is a strong dose of putting some bite into its bark. The Americans will soon find themselves the laughing stock of the world if they insist on complaining about Israeli settlements in word only, while giving Israel the die-hard support it requires to continue along its expansionist and colonialist way. The United States should face up to the fact that, in this area, it is a paper tiger and no matter how many messages President Carter sends to Premier Begin, the messages are pieces of paper that probably end up in Mr Begin's wastepaper basket. If that is a reality that is difficult for the United States to swallow, it is a reality that is unavoidable nevertheless.

It would be an act of true courage for the United States to tie its annual economic and military aid commitments to Israel to the condition that the Israeli settlements programme be progressively rolled back. If the United States is not willing to back up its words with action, it would be more logical then for it to stop complaining about the Israeli settlements. The settlements are bad enough. But the settlements coupled with a continuous humiliation of the United States is worse, given the United States' ambitions as a peace-maker.

PARLIAMENT APPROVES SPECIAL SECURITY COURT BILL

NC1416444Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Feb 78 NC

[Text] This afternoon the Chamber of Deputies approved the bill providing for the establishment of a special security court, by a vote of 72 to 1. At the time of voting 73 deputies were present. During the deliberations some minor amendments were made to the bill, one of which permits the presence of a lawyer at the investigation sessions.

RECONCILIATION REPORTED BETWEEN SHAM'UN, SALAM

NC1507255Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Political circles have pointed to the reconciliation which took place at private meetings in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday between former President Camille Sham'un and former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam thanks to efforts exerted by Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil. These circles view this reconciliation as a new step on the path of consecrating the national rapproachement. These circles also hope that the meeting expected to be held between Sham'un and Salam, with Al-Jumayyil attending, will bring about a change in this direction.

QUIET IN BEIRUT; SYRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES

NC1506505Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 15 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Relative quiet prevailed last night but the sound of explosions was heard at about midnight in some areas. No casualties have been reported.

The work of the military committee investigating the Al-Fayyadiyah incident will be suspended today because the Syrian officers have been summoned to Shtawrah to meet with Syrian Defense Minister Maj Gen Mustafa Talas, who arrived in Al-Biqa' yesterday to inspect the Syrian forces working with the Arab deterrent forces. Maj Gen Mustafa Talas stressed to the Syrian forces that they must continue to carry out their security duties and contribute to the stabilization of security in implementation of the task for which they were sent to fraternal Lebanon.

INA: KHADDAM INVITES CAMILLE SHAM'UN TO SYRIA

JN1510065Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 1 February--Rightist National Liberal Party sources have stated that Camille Sham'un, leader of the party, has received an invitation to visit Syria. Party sources pointed out that 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, minister of foreign affairs, extended the invitation during his visit to Beirut last week.

EXCHANGE OF ARTILLERY SHELLING IN S. LEBANON

NC1506585Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 15 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Two girls were wounded and some houses were damaged yesterday during the exchange of artillery shelling among the traditional axes along the border area. There were several Israeli Air Force sorties in the skies of the south yesterday when the Palestinian organizations were trying to provoke the Lebanese population by opening machinegun fire on the border villages.

SHAM'UN, IDDIH CRITICIZE SYRIA'S 'OCCUPATION ARMY'

LD141309Y Paris L'AURORE in French 11-12 Feb 78 p 2 LD

[Charles Aste report: "Lebanon--The Syrians Want To Bring the Christians to Heel"]

[Excerpt] Even though it is difficult to speculate about the real reasons for the crisis [in Lebanon], it is not unreasonable to detect motives for it in the increasingly heavy burden represented by 30,000 Arab deterrent force soldiers. "The Syrian forces behave like an occupation army," Chairman Camille Sham'un, chief of the "national front" and leader of the National Liberal party, stated.

National Liberal Party Secretary General Dory Sham'un shares his father's views.. During a short visit to Paris he told us: "The Arab deterrent force was given the task by the Arab League of restoring security in Lebanon and insuring the implementation of the Cairo agreements governing relations between the Lebanese state and the Palestinians in order to enable the authorities to extend state sovereignty to the entire national territory.

"Some 18 months have already elapsed and the Syrians have done nothing to persuade the Palestinians to implement the league's decisions. Furthermore, Syria did not look favorably on the creation of a new Lebanese Army which was being rapidly formed and which would have been able in a few months to insure security, thus putting an end to the Syrian soldiers' mission in Lebanon."

According to some rumors, the Syrians have decided to eliminate the National Liberal Party (which they believe to be extremist), disband the Lebanese Army and seek support among Pierre al-Jumayyil's Phalangists and militia (which consists of nearly 10,000 well-armed and remarkably well-trained men). This possibility has vanished as a result of the fact that the "Lebanese front" (including the Phalangists) decided yesterday to reject Syrian conditions and came out against the Damascus "Diktat."

Obviously, after having brought the Palestinians and their progressive allies to heel--an action which led to an almost complete eclipse of Lebanese Islam--the Syrians decided to bring to heel the Christians, whose "front" has become a dominant force in the country, in order to restore a balance and also to show the United States and Israel, whom President al-Asad mentioned by name, that the Syrians will not be manipulated in Lebanon and forced to participate in the peace process now taking place.

Unless the present disturbances are part of the international plot which was set in motion in 1975 with a view to partitioning Lebanon, a prelude to some other partitions in the region. [sentence as published]

Speaking in Paris, where he lives in exile, Mr Raymond Iddih, leader of the Lebanese National Bloc, blamed the Syrian Army for the confrontation, accusing it again of behaving "like an occupation army." Mr Iddih demanded that Europe ask the security council to intervene "to save Lebanon from genocide."

Europe, that is, above all, France. [sentence as published] Will our country, which has cautiously kept out of it all in the past, adopt a more active attitude now?

AL-ASAD RECEIVES FATAH MEMBER KHALID AL-HASAN

JN150854Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0835 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 15 February--President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday received Fatah command member Khalid al-Hasan. The discussion during the meeting revolved around the developments in the Arab situation and the Palestinian issue.

KHULAYFAWI DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH JORDANIAN ENVOY

JN141516Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 14 February--Syrian Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi and Jordanian Ambassador in Damascus Nabih an-Nimr today discussed developments in the situation in the Arab area and relations between the two countries.

KHULAYFAWI BRIEFS CABINET ON ALGIERS CONFERENCE

JN140625Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] At 1700 yesterday afternoon, the cabinet held a meeting under Premier Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi.

The cabinet was briefed by the minister of state for foreign affairs on the summit conference of steadfastness in Algiers and the results of the foreign minister's visit to Lebanon. The cabinet also studied draft laws submitted by the ministries of local administration, economy and foreign trade and higher education. The cabinet meeting ended at 2100.

PAPER SCORES ARAB INDIFFERENCE TO 'FRONT OF STEADFASTNESS'

JN130845Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "When Will the Arabs Realize the Danger Threatening Them All?" The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments as follows: The situation in the Arab region and its circumstances calls upon the Arabs to adopt a serious committed stand at least once only instead of just standing by. The conspiracy goes on everywhere while the Arab nation is still in the throes of preparing some sort of action against it. This despite the fact that all Arab stands agree on what should be done.

How long will this hesitation continue? Why don't we translate these stands into serious action capable of doing something? Everyone speaks objectively about the coming danger, but unfortunately we don't see the necessary joint action being actually taken to confront this danger.

The leaders of the front of steadfastness, by directly contacting most of the Arab brothers, have tried to expand and strengthen this front. They have left the door open for all the Arab brothers, especially those who have not publicly declared their opinions on As-Sadat's capitulationist move.

The leaders of the front asserted at the Algiers conference the need to expand this front on the Arab and international levels to enable it to confront and foil all the plotting against our Arab nation and to resist As-Sadat, the ruler of Egypt, who has become the effective instrument for this plotting.

For the major part of the Arab nation to just stand by and watch what is taking place--we say that this will only enlarge the circle of conspiracy, or the imperialist-Zionist plot to be exact, to cover the entire Arab region and even some of the neighboring countries. The hostile plot might even go beyond that to affect those who supported us against Israel and its aggression.

Once again, we would like to stress that the hostile plot against our Arab homeland which has taken the form of a new alliance is not aimed at this or that country, as some people think, but against everyone; against the region and its Arabism. Therefore, so long as the danger threatens everyone, all Arabs are called upon to resist and foil this hostile plot.

NEWSPAPER SCORES 'WAR OF RUMORS' IN LEBANON

JN150642Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "Syria Went to Lebanon Because It is a Country and a People," the newspaper AL-BA'TH writes the following commentary: There is no need to explain the war of rumors which is being launched in Lebanon because it is actually self-explanatory. Every citizen in fraternal Lebanon is aware of the significance and objectives of such rumors concerning the country and its citizens. Therefore, all these methods, which some people are attempting to use again, are frivolous, because those who have a real interest in supporting the march of peace and security will themselves not allow anyone to restore the situation which unjustifiably prevailed during the days of rancor and chaos. Neither will Arab Syria, which has endured heavy burdens for the sake of Lebanon, its people and stability, consequently allow anyone to play havoc with Lebanon's security and people. Syria, which has actually endured heavy burdens to save Lebanon, did so out of its pan-Arab principles.

The paper adds: Syria dispatched its army to Lebanon to halt the bloodshed on an official request by the representatives of the legitimate Lebanese authority. President Ilyas Sarkis has said at a cabinet meeting "that the Arab deterrent forces have come to Lebanon at our request and that the elements of these forces have placed themselves at our disposal, thus enduring various kinds of hardships and performing tasks exceeding those of any army's usual tasks. "Therefore, we are keen on the morale of these forces inasmuch as we are keen on our army.

The paper continues: If we refer to the statements that were made by Lebanese citizens without exception, we would undoubtedly find that all that Syria has done was first and foremost for the sake of Lebanon and its people without any discrimination.

In conclusion, the paper says: Now that recent events have been contained in the appropriate manner, it would be a fatal mistake for anyone to attempt to disrupt the stable security situation. Matters are now different from those which prevailed during the events and the Lebanese people will confront anyone who tries to play havoc with Lebanon's security or even tries to harm the peace march. Syria, as President al-Asad said, will absolutely spare no efforts to support and strengthen the security march and to push the improvement of the fraternal country.

INFORMATION MINISTER CITED ON RELATIONS WITH JORDAN

JN100830Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Feb 78 pp 1, 11 JN

[Text] Damascus, Majid 'Asfur Dispatch--Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad said in a press conference yesterday that Jordanian-Syrian relations are proceeding well. He said that all the resolutions of the joint information committee are being carried out to coordinate cooperation between the two fraternal countries. He said that coordination and integration steps in various fields are also being carried out.

KUWAITI PAPER CITES MINISTER ON MILITARY MIGHT

NC140812Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0756 GMT 14 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 14 February--Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad has stressed that his country has the ability to achieve a military balance with the Israeli enemy.

In a statement published today in the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, the Syrian information minister also stressed that Syria will not relinquish one inch of land, even if it remains alone in the battle. Syria will also remain an uneasily digestible fish because Damascus views the future in the light of the historic experience of the Arab nation.

LIBYA

JALLUD DEPARTS TRIPOLI FOR VISIT TO USSR

LD141352Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud left for Moscow at noon today heading a Libyan Arab delegation on an official visit of several days to the Soviet Union.

The delegation accompanying the staff major includes the secretaries of industry, electricity, the assistant under secretary for political affairs at the Foreign Secretariat, the director general of the atomic energy establishment, the board chairman of the Al-Khalij al-'Arabai (explorations) Company, representataves of agriculture, the general organization for iron and steel industry, and the national general organization for oil.

Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud was seen off at Tripoli International Airport by the commander in chief of the armed forces, Brig Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir.

OFFICIAL SAYS FRANCE, LIBYA MUST HELP SOLVE CHAD ISSUE

LD122323Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Paris, 12 February--Ash-Shahhati, brother chairman of the external liaison bureau of the General People's Congress, has told AFP that France and the Jamahiriyah must intensify their efforts to help Chad solve its domestic problems. He added: We encourage every French initiative aimed at facilitating solutions and not complicating the situation.

He stressed that contacts between France and the Jamahiriyah have not stopped at all, particularly in regard to Chad. He gave an example of this type of contact. He said that Libyan Foreign Secretary Dr Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki had received in the last few days French Ambassador to Libya Jean-Pierre Cabouat.

As to the question of Chad, which has broken its political relations with the Jamahiriyah, Ash-Shahhati affirmed that Tripoli is always prepared to hold dialog and direct talks with the Chadian leaders.

He stressed that of all countries Libya best understands the Chad problem and it encourages all initiatives that would lead to a return of calm and to a peaceful solution of Chad's domestic issues.

Brother ash-Shahhati is currently touring Europe, and in France he will meet with political leaders of all leanings.

Brother ash-Shahhati expressed the hope that relations between France and the Jamahiriyah will continue to develop further.

JANA REPORTS NEW EGYPTIAN ATTACK IMMINENT

LD101916Y Tripoli JANA in English 1818 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait, February 10, JANA--The Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM (The Public Opinion) said yesterday the Egyptian president, inspired by the Americans was preparing to launch a new aggression against the Jamahiriyah.

In a leading article the newspaper said the conversation between As-Sadat and Carter on providing Egypt with weapons did not mean fighting the Israelis but activating the Egyptian-Libyan front on one side and increasing Egyptian moves in the Horn of Africa on the other.

The signal sent to As-Sadat, while he was on his way to Washington from the presidents of Chad and Somalia has revealed the plot being cooked up at the moment, the paper said.

It said activation of the Egyptian-Libyan front, from the American point of view, will, at this stage, prevent the Jamahiriyah from putting its entire weight behind the rejectionist front which supports Syria and the Palestinians.

The prospective attack will weaken the Arab steadfastness front so that every party will be busy in tackling conspiracies against it.

OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETS IN TRIPOLI

For reportage on the meetings of the OAU liberation coordinating committee which opened in Tripoli on 14 February, see the Inter-African Affairs section of the 14 February and subsequent issues of the Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT.

MAURITANIA

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES TALKS WITH EEC, OTHER TOPICS

LD141703Y Brussels LE SOIR in French 9 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Etienne Ugeux report]

[Excerpts] On the eve of his departure from Belgium following a 1-week visit, Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah assessed his visit. He said he was very pleased with the warm welcome he had been given by both Belgian and EEC officials.

Three main subjects were discussed in his talks at the EEC: fishing, the renewal of the second Lome convention and drought.

The president stressed in particular the immense fish resources on the Mauritanian coast. Unfortunately this source of wealth, which could bring in as much as the iron mines, is pillaged by pirates. Therefore, the main need is to evaluate the fish resources, then to insure that territorial waters and the fishing zone are protected and finally, to establish rules for exploitation which respect the ecological balance.

We have therefore asked the community, he explained, to establish what measures should be taken to protect us from thieves and organize joint exploitation to the benefit of our country and the community.

Mauritania's Nouadibou Wharf is no longer adequate for the trade and with the help of China Mauritania is going to build a port which will enable the industry to develop. This project will be completed in 3 years and will cost about 7 Belgian francs. The installation will be carried out via a road 1,100 km long linking Nouakchott with Mali and constructed by the European Development Fund.

Most of the aid is coming from China, with France in second place. While he admits that there is no such thing as philanthropy at state level, Mr Ould Daddah is very pleased with the cooperation he has received from Peking for some 10 years now. He has made three trips to China and found his interlocutors so friendly that he came away with the impression that he was doing them a favor. And he could discover no ulterior motive in their behavior.

Finally, the president looked back over the current conflict with the POLISARIO and did not hide the fact that it has had a very serious effect on the Mauritanian economy. He pointed out that Mauritania did not have many privileges in the colonial days and was governed at that time from Saint-Louis in Senegal. When the country became independent in 1960, it had 5 teachers and about 10 students in higher education.

Finally, President Ould Daddah gave an assurance that if Algeria revised its position on the Western Sahara, his country would be prepared to forget the past and cooperate with Algeria.

NEWSPAPER HAILS PRESIDENT'S TRIP AS FRUITFUL

FA1403O4Y Paris AFP in French 1505 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 13 Feb--The Mauritanian newspaper CHAAB Monday stressed that the recent visit by President Moktar Ould Daddah to the EEC "had served to reaffirm to the EEC that its cooperation with Mauritania will never be affected by Algerian pressure."

According to CHAAB there is no doubt that Algeria "has tried openly to stop the aid given to us by the EEC and other friendly nations for our economic development."

The paper adds, "in this respect, as in others, Mauritanian diplomacy and our philosophy regarding cooperation have been the target of multiple attacks and intrigue by Algeria."

CHAAB stresses that the visit by the Mauritanian chief of state to Brussels, Paris and Rabat had confirmed that "the trust and friendship enjoyed by Mauritania in those countries is on the increase."

MOROCCO

MAURITANIAN MINISTER SCORES ALGERIAN BACKING OF SAHARANS

LD102308Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Mauritanian Foreign Minister Hamdi Ould Mouknass commented on the work of the Algiers conference to the Nouakchott radio correspondent during the visit of Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah to Morocco. He said that the Middle East problems from the Mauritanian viewpoint basically center on the Palestinian issue. Therefore Mauritania had closely followed the recent conference some Arab states held in Algeria's capital, which, it had been said, was held initially to coordinate the situation in face of the developments of the Palestinian issue.

After observing that the Algerian rulers included in the final communique on the work of the conference a special paragraph concerning the backing for the so-called Sahara liberation movement, the Mauritanian foreign minister stated that comparing the courageous and just struggle of the Palestinian people with the acts of the mercenary gangs setting off from Algeria is a scandal and a hard blow to the Palestinian issue.

Hamdi Ould Mouknass asked what are the similarities between the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and a member of the Arab League and the Islamic Congress, and which is recognized by the United Nations and the OAU, and the mercenary gangs which consist of Algerian citizens operating under the so-called Sahara liberation movement. He said the latter is in fact nothing except a tool of Algerian imperialism in the area.

He concluded by stating that the Algiers meeting was an insult to the people of Palestine who cannot allow their courageous and just struggle to be compared with the acts of subversion which are being carried out by the mercenary gangs based in Algeria.

TUNISIA

'INDISPOSITION' PREVENTED BOURGUIBA-AL-QADHDHAFI MEETING

LD141230Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Feb 78 LD

[Text] In reply to some malicious interpretations circulated by foreign newspapers concerning why Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was not received by President Habib Bourguiba when the former stopped at Tunis' Carthage International Airport on 6 February, authorized Tunisian quarters affirm that his excellency the president was not able to meet with his Libyan colleague because of an unexpected indisposition, and this is despite the fact that he is very keen on meeting with the colonel whenever the opportunity to do so arises, owing to the friendship which links the two leaders and the ties of fraternity and good-neighborliness which exist between the two countries.

The great fighter was also unable to preside as usual over the meeting of the Supreme Judicial Council which was scheduled for Tuesday, 7 February.

It is worth pointing out that his excellency the president is now well and his health does not call for anxiety and he will resume his activity in the normal manner shortly.

NOUIRA RECEIVES AFRICAN TU ORGANIZATION OFFICIAL

LD141631Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 9 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Prime Minister Hedi Nouira received yesterday morning at the prime minister's office Organization of African Trade Union Unity Secretary General Denis Akumu in the presence of Tunisian General Federation of Labor acting Secretary General Tijani Abid.

BOURGUIBA ORDER OF DAY HAILS ARMY ROLE DURING DISORDERS

LD091255Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 5 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Apparent text of order of day from Tunisian President Bourguiba to Tunisian armed forces]

[Text] Distressing events have occurred in the country during the last few days, caused by a wind of anarchy; an explosion of violence and rebellion has spread terror and disturbed public order; the law has been violated; legality has been trampled underfoot; the capital has been subjected to looting and havoc; enterprises have been destroyed and victims have fallen.

All these acts have been perpetrated with premeditation, within the framework of an insane venture cunningly and deceitfully plotted. They have brought about the worst tragedy that Tunisia has experienced in 22 years.

Under these circumstances, the armed forces were called upon to intervene, entrusted with the task of resisting the agitators, insuring citizens' security, preserving the nation, its freedoms and gains, upholding legality and safeguarding the law, in order to preserve it from any violation.

They intervened to stem the tide of destruction and tackled the situation confidently and steadfastly to establish calm, restore order and extinguish the fire of discord, which, as the Koran says, is worse than murder.

Thanks to the help given by the armed forces to the forces of order, life has returned to normal, citizens and their property have been protected, the tide of destruction has been stemmed, security has been restored and the specter of rebellion and crime has faded.

Under these circumstances I extend, in my capacity as supreme commander of the armed forces, my heartfelt thanks to all members of the army, who have done their duty to the full. I convey to them my esteem and my every encouragement, that they may continue to insure security, safeguard the gains of the people in freedom, order and justice and consolidate the state and its constitutional institutions.

Signed: Habib Bourguiba, supreme commander of the armed forces

PAPER STRESSES UGTT LEADERS' ALIENATION FROM PEOPLE

LD091323Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 1 Feb 78 pp 1,7 LD

[Abdelhay Sghaier editorial]

[Text] In the speech which he delivered during a routine session of the National Assembly following the grave events which took place in Tunisia the prime minister laid great stress on the deliberate plan devised by the minority aimed at overthrowing the regime and undermining the foundations of the institutions, making use of the Tunisian General Federation of Labor [UGTT] for this purpose.

This dangerous plan against the fatherland was hatched by plotters both in the country and abroad and its implementation started long before the beginning of the general strike, which was to be only a stage of and the signal for an uprising. The riots, killings and acts of vandalism, plunder and sabotage were planned and carried out against targets chosen in advance. Rebellion was organized and criminal acts synchronized, acts whose instigators had been provided with subversive means--means whose possession by the leaders of the trade union central organization remained undetected. Hence the quite understandable surprise, fear and indignation of the citizens and of genuine trade unionists.

It is hard to believe that a trade union central organization could suddenly become a center for subversion in a country which is, after all, well known to be in the vanguard of developing countries as far as public freedoms, especially trade union freedoms, are concerned. This is the first fact which springs to mind. The trade union central organization has merely been used by the conspirators as a springboard, contrary to the UGTT's principles and its orientation and to the interests of the working class and the country as a whole.

The second fact, which should be analyzed in depth with a view to drawing conclusions from these dramatic events, relates to a type of behavior which could endager the state and the nation, especially in a situation where moral values are disregarded, political awareness is nonexistent, reason gives way to ambition and passions are unbridled.

As a result of the fact that some unscrupulous leaders sought to make the trade union central organization stray from its usual path in order to implement their personal schemes and satisfy their desires, the UGTT has burst its own barriers. Its leaders disregarded the Tunisian working class, they showed contempt for it just as they showed contempt for the law and the masses' desire to protect their achievements against any imposters.

But whether they are in the country or abroad, these inveterate plotters must realize that their schemes will always come up against people determined to destroy seeds of adventurism and bar the way to treason and compromises. On their long path toward democracy and dignity the Tunisian people have always managed to emerge victorious from their difficulties. What is more, all those who have tried and are still trying to interfere with the people's independence and jeopardize their freedom have reaped and will reap nothing but failure and bitterness and can expect nothing but the fate deserved by all adventurers, for such is the people's will.

DISSIDENT BEN SALAH HITS REGIME, HINTS AT OPPOSITION

LD131525Y Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 8 Feb 78 p 6 LD

[Brigitta Edlund undated Paris interview with Tunisian exile Ahmed Ben Salah: "No Compromises Possible"]

[Text] Paris, 7 February--Tunisia is mourning its dead. On 26 January the first general strike since independence took place. It was brutally crushed by the army. According to official sources 46 people were killed; according to unofficial sources 400 were killed. One of the people who will be of crucial importance for developments in Tunisia after the bloody strike day is Ahmed Ben Salah, once President Bourguiba's right hand and the man who was in charge of the planned economy attempts in Tunisia in the sixties.

Few politicians are so hated in Tunisia as Ben Salah, and few so loved. During his trial Ben Salah's closest colleagues declared that among other things he had squandered state funds.

One of the most important charges against him was that he had abused the head of state's confidence--something unheard of in the one-man and one-party ruled Tunisia.

After a dramatic flight from prison in 1973, when, disguised as a woman and with the assistance of a prison guard, he escaped to Europe, Ben Salah has led the banned MUP [People's Unity Movement] socialist party.

Since 26 January, when the army crushed the demonstrations in Tunis, the central trade union organization--the Tunisian General Federation of Labor [UGTT]--with over 400,000 members has been humbled. It was Africa's most lively and best organized trade union.

"Before 26 January there was a potential hope that a compromise would be possible, if the demand for a general amnesty had been satisfied by the regime and if some of the demands from the central trade union organization had been met," Ben Salah said. "Now no compromises are possible."

On 1 January 1979 a new presidential term of office begins in Tunisia. If the aged and sick Habib Bourguiba, who is president for life, dies after that date, Prime Minister Hedi Nouira will complete his mandate period, that is, for 5 years.

Old trade union leaders are being replaced with people loyal to the government. UGTT Secretary General Habib Achour has been under arrest for a week. Ten of the 12 key figures in the central trade union leadership are also in prison. Ben Salah said that the tally of 400 dead and over 1,000 wounded on 26 January is the climax of fear and terror. But it must not obscure the daily oppression. The Destourian Party now has a terror center and villas where oppositionists are taken and tortured. Outside Tunis there is a concentration camp with several hundred prisoners.

"Anything is possible," Ben Salah said. "I have only gloomy visions of the future, at least of the immediate future," He foresees a hardening dictatorship, like those in South America.

"We were authoritarian in the sixties, but it was never intended that such a state of affairs should become permanent," he said.

After Ben Salah was deposed in 1970, the Tunisian socialist-tinged government changed direction. Under Prime Minister Hedi Nouira foreign and domestic investments giving a quick return have been encouraged. Sine 1970 a new affluent bourgeoisie consisting of 200 families has grown up--a class which lives in a luxury which has almost disappeared in Europe.

He also said that the new foreign financiers are going and building their factories as they like. "They boast openly that they receive help from their well-placed friends in the government if the trade union makes trouble," Ben Salah said.

President Bourguiba is a very strong personality and even those who harshly criticize the present regime in Tunis seem to find it difficult to really attack the old president. A real change seems difficult to achieve in his lifetime.

One of those whom Ben Salah most harshly accuses is Destourian Party chief Mohammed Sayyah. Ben Salah considers that Sayyah lies behind what he calls the "fascist process of the Destourian Party."

"Tunisia should be able to play a role as almost a neutral in the conflict between its neighbors in North Africa," he said. "But since the country is divided, weak and destitute it has been possible for foreign interests to exert great influence on Tunisian foreign policy." He considers the accusations that the UGTT leadership is in the pay of Libya absurd.

In colonial times people always said that the Destourian Party was in the hands of Moscow. Now people see Libya wherever there is opposition, he said.

He views with great anxiety the interest with which high-ranking Moroccan, French and Saudi Arabian military and security officers have conferred with the Tunisian Government most recently.

"It is absurd for the French general staff chief to say that Tunisia and France share the same interest in North Africa," he said.

Of his own political future Ben Salah said:

"Last week a big meeting was held in Paris of Tunisian workers with leftist sympathies. I had sent them a statement. I said that if it was greeted with indifference I could devote myself to something else. "But it was not," he said with a smile.

WESTERN SAHARA

MINISTER SAYS 1,600 FRENCH SOLDIERS INVOLVED IN SAHARA

LD012245Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Foreign Minister Ibrahim Hakim has held a press conference in Dar es Salaam in which he emphasized that about 1,600 French soldiers were now taking part in the aggression against the Saharan people. He pointed out that several countries are giving assistance to the POLISARIO Front, especially after the intervention of the French Air Force in the Western Sahara.

FIGHTERS CLAIM 24 MOROCCANS KILLED, 40 WOUNDED

LD021505Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] Saharan fighters have recently inflicted losses on the Moroccan and Mauritanian forces on the northern and southern fronts. A military communique issued yesterday by the POLISARIO spoke of attacks by the fighters at the end of January on many Moroccan positions, resulting in the destruction of two positions. The fighters destroyed another position in Smara. The attacks took place on 27 and 28 January. The attacks led to the killing of 24 personnel of the Moroccan forces and the wounding of 40 others; large quantities of arms and ammunition were seized.

AFP REPORTS POLISARIO MOTORIZED ATTACK ON TICHLA

PA041425Y Paris AFP in English 1341 GMT 4 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, Feb 4 (AFP)--A 30-strong motorized column of the Western Sahara liberation movement POLISARIO attacked a Mauritanian regional command headquarters killing two men and wounding 12 others on Thursday night, informed sources said here today.

The twilight attack on Tichla, in southern Tiris-el-Gharbia Province, former Spanish Sahara, was beaten off after "extremely violent" fighting, the sources said. They added that POLISARIO suffered heavy losses and that "numerous human remains and blood-stains" were visible after the fighting.

The 500-strong local civilian population was unharmed, they said.

Tichla, which lies about 40 kms (25 miles) north of the Inal base on the Nouadhibou-Zouirat railway, is the headquarters of the first military region and is headed by Lieutenant Colonel Haidall, who was away when POLISARIO attacked.

Sources here said that French Jaguar and Moroccan F-5 aircraft hunted the POLISARIO column on Friday, apparently unsuccessfully.

(POLISARIO is fighting a guerrilla war against Morocco and Mauritania to "liberate" the former Spanish Sahara partitioned by the two countries shortly after Gen Franco's death).

BEGIN REPLIES TO KNESSET MOTIONS ON VANCE STATEMENTS

TA151120Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Feb 78 TA

[Text] A few minutes ago Prime Minister Menahem Begin began his speech of reply in the Knesset to motions for the agenda on the statements of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. At the beginning of his speech, Mr Begin offered his condolences to the families of the victims in last night's explosion in Jerusalem. The prime minister declared that justice would get hold of those guilty of the crime.

Begin To Visit Washington

TA151226Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister will visit Washington next month and stay there for 3 days for talks with President Carter. Mr Begin told the Knesset that he had received an invitation from Washington this morning. The date of the visit has not yet been set.

The prime minister replied to five proposals for the agenda regarding what was recently said by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. Mr Begin called on President Carter to reconsider his decision to sell offensive weapons to Egypt and modern airplanes to Saudi Arabia. If Saudi Arabia receives the most modern planes, he said, it will then become another confrontation country. The prime minister pointed out that the willingness to supply planes to Israel was partial, but he expressed gratitude for the President's decision and also hoped for the supply of further aircraft and land weapons. Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman will discuss these things when he visits Washington at the beginning of next month.

As for the settlements, Mr Begin again stressed that, in Israel's view, they do not contradict international law.

As for the demilitarization of Sinai, the prime minister recalled that President as-Sadat had told him in Jerusalem that the Egyptian Army would not cross the Jiddi and Mitla passes. That has been the basis for Israel's whole peace program. It is essential to continue with the negotiations, Mr Begin said, and the United States should spur the sides on to continue with them.

At the beginning of his speech, Mr Begin expressed condolences to the families of those killed in last night's explosion in Jerusalem. The hand of justice, he said, will reach the guilty.

Midday Newsreel Carries Reply

TA151229Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1115 GMT 15 Feb 78 TA

[Prime Minister Menahem Begin's reply in Knesset to agenda motions on 15 February--from Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Over to our correspondent in the Knesset Zevi Lidar:

[Begin--live] ..the United Nations, and three, Israeli protection of them. And after the plan in its entirety had been presented to the President of the United States....

[Lidar, superimposed over Begin] At this moment the prime minister is referring to the government [peace] plan and to his talk with President Carter, which he is wont to recall frequently. I suggest we hear first the prime minister's statement, after which we shall return to the beginning of the speech.

[Begin] I am repeating from this Knesset platform, to members of the cabinet, to members of the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, to all the people who perused the original documents and who know the facts. I am proclaiming this today also to the public opinion in Israel and abroad. And when I returned from the United States, I reported on this to cabinet. And only after I was able to deliver that report on a moral support--and we did not commit the President, and we do not even think of committing him. Moreover, after we received the moral support of the U.S. Government, the cabinet decided that the foreign minister, the defense minister and myself would go to Ismailia and present the plan, as it had been approved by the cabinet, to the president of Egypt. In this regard it is important to relate to the Knesset about what happened in Ismailia, too. I also presented our plan to the president of Egypt, which, both generally and in detail, postulated the maintenance of the settlements in the Rafah approaches and along the gulf of Shelomo [Gulf of 'Aqaba] with Israeli protection. What was President as-Sadat's reaction? I shall hide nothing underneath my tongue. He did not accept the proposal. He actually said he was rejecting it. This is his right. The main thing, however, is that we--he and myself--summed up the meeting in Ismailia, we both said and specified--also in public, in the joint press conference--that now serious negotiations were starting. We brought a proposal, the Egyptians will offer a proposal of their own and the negotiations will be conducted over two proposals. Free negotiations, without ultimative demands, without setting dates for their conclusion, as befits two nations, two nations that have an ancient culture, two nations that wish to reach peace. This was the explicit conclusion, stated also by President as-Sadat, and not only by me. And in order that such free negotiations might be conducted, President as-Sadat accepted my proposal in the first talk we had, namely to establish the two committees: one for military issues and the other for political issues. One that would be sitting in Cairo, the other that would be sitting in Jerusalem, over the issues of the negotiations.

Now, let us assume that during the recent weeks, in which those negotiations have been conducted, Egypt had accepted our proposal regarding the Israeli settlements, would anyone overseas have had reservations regarding such a plan? I am sure that everybody would....

[Lidar--live] The prime minister is continuing his speech and we shall hear more excerpts later. We had better return now to the beginning of the prime minister's speech. At the start Mr Begin replied to the statements made here on the platform by those presenting motions for the agenda, who said that never have our relations with the United States reached such a low point. Mr Begin recalled many instances in the past when there had been many extremely acute crises with the United States. We overcame them, and we shall overcome this crisis too, Mr Begin said. There is a crisis, but this does not overshadow our friendship with the United States. We shall continue to remain friends, this is in the nature of things, in the nature of the relations between the two countries.

From the Knesset rostrum Mr Begin also thanked President Carter for his decision, for his, indeed, only partial response to Israel's request for the supply of aircraft. And he hopes, so he said, for a further supply--following clarifications--of both up-to-date planes, as well as defensive ground equipment; something, he hopes, will be achieved during Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's trip to the United States.

Mr Begin referred in his speech also to the decision to supply arms to Egypt and to Saudi Arabia as well. Here is an excerpt from that portion: [begin recording]

[Begin] It is my duty, in the name of the Government of Israel, and I am certain on behalf of the decisive majority in the Knesset, to urge the U.S. President to reconsider his decision regarding the supply of offensive weapons to Egypt and of most up-to-date planes to Saudi Arabia. We read, in the midst of the negotiations with Egypt, in anticipation of which we presented a peace plan, which was praised by all who saw it--I am repeating this sentence because it is absolutely true--we had read about a threat of renewing the war if certain ultimatumlike demands were not accepted. And today, an official Egyptian newspaper had this to say: The Israelis should know that the Arabs can unite again and launch a second October against Israel. This is an overt threat and will influence neither us nor our position. Let it be known that threats of war and of aggression will not deter Israel from adopting any decision that might harm its status, its rights, its security or its future. It is a fact, however, that this threat has been made in the midst of the negotiations. We have never threatened, nor shall we threaten, any person or country with war. We shall not begin or initiate it; we do not desire it. We hate war and bloodshed. And thus, it is this cabinet's foremost concern--and also of the former cabinets and the entire state of Israel--how to prevent war, how to bring peace nearer and how to achieve it. [end recording]

[Lidar] Mr Begin in his speech also asked the U.S. President to reconsider his decision to supply, according to him, the most up-to-date airplanes in the world to Saudi Arabia. The supply of such planes will turn Saudi Arabia, he said, into a first-order confrontation state with Israel, which will be a danger to peace and to the security of the State of Israel.

It should be recalled that the prime minister in his speech replied to five motions for the agenda that had been presented by MK's Yosi Sarid, Me'ir Pa'il, Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, Me'ir Wilner of HADASH and Zalman Shoval from the Likud. In his speech Mr Yehuda Ben-Me'ir attacked with unprecedented harshness--in my view--the U.S. secretary of state, Cyrus Vance. He used sharp expressions, such as: Cyrus Vance is behaving dishonestly and is not bona fide. Other MK's Yosi Sarid, Me'ir Pa'il and Me'ir Wilner, attacked the government for its settlement policy.

Further Report on Reply

TA151327Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1141 GMT 15 Feb 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] It is now 1341. We can now return to the Knesset for a summing up of the debate on U.S.-Israeli relations. Over to you, our Knesset correspondent Zevi Lidar.

[Lidar--live] The prime minister was keeping, for the end of his speech, an important announcement. This morning he said, he received an invitation from the U.S. President to go to Washington and to meet with him. The visit, Mr Begin said, will take place next month, will last 3 days and its exact date will be set in contacts between the two governments. Earlier, after referring to the subject of U.S. arms supplies to Egypt and to Saudi Arabia, the prime minister touched on the controversy between Israel and the United States on the issue of the settlements. [begin recording]

[Begin] On this issue, ladies and gentlemen, honorable MK's, there is only one proposal: The U.S. Government and the Israeli Government agree to disagree. The U.S. Governement says that our settlements contravene international law.

The Israeli Government says: We examined international law, we perused it, including Clause 49 of the fourth part of the Geneva Convention, and we contend that the settlements in Israel absolutely conform with international law. The U.S. Government says: The settlements are illegal. The Israeli Government says: The settlements are absolutely legal. These are the differences of opinion between the two governments. And when I was in the United States, first in July, and the U.S. President received me on the White House lawn, he said that there were differences of opinion between us, and I agreed with him, but I suggested we had better say that there were issues which we should agree to disagree on. [end recording]

[Lidar] The prime minister expressed hope that on the basis of clear knowledge of the differences of opinion between the two governments on the issue of the settlements, the relations between the United States and Israel would continue with understanding and friendship.

At the end of his speech the prime minister asked that Me'ir Wilner's motion be removed from the agenda and the four other motions be referred to the Knesset Committee for Security and Foreign Affairs. And here there was a surprise: MK Naftali Feder, from the Alinement MAPAM faction, took the floor and proposed that the motion of MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, of the MAFDAL, also be struck off the agenda. And then, in an unprecedented parliamentary step, MK Yazhaq Navon, also from the Alinement, stood up and proposed that the proposal of his own party member, Naftali Feder, be struck off the agenda. Yizhaq Navon received considerable support and, thus, permitting a glimpse of the profound dissension between MAPAM and the rest of the Alinement factions, the four motions were referred to the Security and Foreign Affairs Committee.

BEGIN DISCUSSES MINUTES OF TALKS WITH CARTER

TA141646Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Feb 78 p 2 TA

[By Yehoshu'a Bizor]

[Text] Yesterday Prime Minister Menahem Begin showed a group of Knesset members the minutes of his talks with U.S. President Jimmy Carter when he visited him at the White House. The minutes show that the prime minister explained the security importance of the settlements in the Rafah approaches, whose existence Israel has to maintain at all costs--even if sovereignty over the region is restored to Egypt. The minutes show that Carter replied: There is nothing here that will be unacceptable to As-Sadat.

In this way the prime minister wished to prove that during their talks the U.S. President did not request the dismantling of the Israeli settlements in the territories in general and in the Rafah approaches in particular. It is for this reason that Begin wondered about U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's remarks which, in fact, denied what Carter had said.

According to the prime minister, President as-Sadat is not involved in the details of the proposed agreement, and he acts on various issues in accordance with the advice that he gets from the advisers around him. In Begin's opinion, As-Sadat was incited by the advisers concerning the settlements in the Rafah approaches.

Menahem Begin referred to the tense relations now existing between Israel and the United States as distressing. However, the fact that the talks and contacts with Egypt are continuing proves, in Begin's opinion, that the region is not deteriorating into a state of war. He expressed confidence that we will overcome this state of tension. The prime minister said he is hesitating about whether or not he should go to Washington soon for talks with administration leaders there.

SOURCES SAY BEGIN'S REMARKS DELIBERATELY MODERATE

TA1414432Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Feb 78 p 2 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpt] Political circles pointed out yesterday that in his less severe attitude yesterday [at Begin's press conference] the prime minister reopened the possibility of improving the atmosphere in relations with the United States without Israel's request that the United States revert to its old position having been met. It is possible that theprime minister acted in this way with the knowledge--as a result of his meeting with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis on Saturday night--that there is no chance of turning the wheel back with respect to the U.S. position. To the degree that this interpretation is correct, the cabinet's severe resolution of 12 February should be regarded simply as a manifestation of anger, unaccompanied by any threat.

Circles in the prime minister's office claimed yesterday that the prime minister's remarks came in the wake of Vance's more moderate remarks to CBS, which took the sting out of his remarks of Friday. At the same time, these circles said that Israel still expects the United States to reconsider its position. Our correspondent has learned that the decision that Atherton's first stop in the region would be Cairo--as Begin announced yesterday--was made at the meeting between Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Alfred Atherton in Washington last week. The decision was made in view of Dayan's explanation that since the last contact of the United States was with Israel--Dayan's talks in Washington--Atherton's next contact should be with Egypt in Cairo. According to the original plan, Atherton was to have come to Jerusalem first.

BEGIN: ONLY ISRAEL CAN MAKE ITS POLICY DECISIONS

TA1510015Y Jerusalem POST in English 15 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Judy Siegel, Jerusalem POST reporter]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin last night declared that only Israel could make its foreign policy decisions. "For (other countries) it is merely a matter of policy; for us it is a matter of our existence."

Addressing delegates to the fourth world conference of (orthodox) synagogues and qehillot, [communities], who filled Jerusalem's Binyane Ha'uma, Begin reiterated the "eternal, biblical right" of the Jewish people to settle in the whole land of Israel.

The premier asked the conference to call on Soviet leaders to release immediately all prisoners of Zion. He singled out Edvard Kuznetzov and Anatoliy Shcharanskiy--both in prison--"whose lives are in danger."

Ashkenazi chief rabbi Shelomo Goren told the audience, which included President Qazir, Sephardi chief rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, and chief rabbis and Jewish community representatives from the Diaspora, that they must declare to the world the Jewish right--"a religious, historical and legal one"--to the land of Israel.

Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abuhazera announced a new government policy to build and maintain synagogues in every outlying settlement and neighborhood.

The Jerusalem POST learned that delegations of the Young Israel Movement and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America held emergency meetings in Jerusalem today over their last-minute dissatisfaction with terms for membership offered by the World Zionist Organization. They are due to be welcomed officially at the 29th Zionist Congress opening on Monday.

ALLEGED DEVIATION FROM CABINET DECISIONS DENIED

TA151030Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister's office this morning described as totally unfounded the allegations that a member of the cabinet deviated from cabinet decisions. Our political correspondent notes the reference is apparently to the reports about deviations by Minister Ari'el Sharon on the subject of settlement establishments in the Sinai approaches.

U.S. PROPOSAL FOR TRIPLE ARMS DEAL REPORTED

TA141850Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The U.S. administration will ask Congress to approve the sale of 265 fighter planes to Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia. According to State Department sources in Washington, this triple package deal includes 50 F-5E planes for Egypt, 60 F-15 planes for Saudi Arabia and 25 F-15 planes and 130 F-16 planes for Israel. Officials in Washington noted that Egypt's request for more modern planes than the F-5E had been rejected. An official announcement about this proposal of the administration will be released in Washington tonight. U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis informed the prime minister at noon today of the triple deal proposal.

Our political correspondent remarks that this deal lacks Israeli blessing and that Jerusalem opposes the sale of U.S. arms to Arabs. Our correspondent notes, at the same time, that the meeting between the prime minister and the ambassador was conducted in a cordial atmosphere, contrary to an earlier talk Saturday evening.

Dayan Criticizes Proposal

TA142122Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 14 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan criticized the U.S. administration's intention to sell war planes to Egypt. This will damage Israel's security, Mr Dayan said at a press conference in Los Angeles. The foreign minister pointed out that Israel believes that the United States should not supply arms to Egypt as long as a peace agreement has not been achieved.

Gur Comments on Proposal

TA141856Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Feb 78 TA

[Text] At a graduation ceremony in Sinai for armor corps officiers, Chief of Staff Mordekhay Gur drew attention today to the dangers facing us now that Arab countries are receiving U.S. weapons. Jordan and Saudi Arabia will now be joined by Egypt, and all these countries, as well as Israel, will be using the same types of arms. Hence, the chief of staff said, the Israeli soldier must work hard and employ all his abilities.

Gur Sees 'Grave Threat'

TA141944Y Paris AFP in English 1847 GMT 14 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Jerusalem, Feb. 14 (AFP)--Reported plans by the United States to sell sophisticated military equipment to Egypt presage a "grave threat" to Israel, General Mordekhay Gur, chief of the Israeli General Staff, said today. Gen Gur, speaking at an Israeli base, said Israel could now find itself up against a front with the same technology as Israel's and would have to "fight both against the quantity and the quality of that front's arms." This he said, would constitute a "grave threat" to Israel.

In addition, he said, another group of Arab nations, including Iraq, Libya and Syria, continue to receive "very large quantities" of Soviet weapons--"planes, helicopters, tanks, surface-to-air, surface-to-surface and anti-tank missiles and submarines." Israel, he warned, could face "very difficult trials."

Israeli aeronautics specialist Yosef Rom, a Likud MP, who has just returned from the United States, spoke in a radio interview, meanwhile, of the "gravity" of the entry into Egypt of American technology. "The supplying of the F-5E plane is only a first step toward the supplying of much more perfected craft," he said.

Minister Assails Move

TA150340Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Those who have reacted to the sale of fighter planes include Minister Hayyim Landau, who said that anyone who supplies advanced weapons to Israel's enemies is endangering the chances for peace and increasing the possibility for renewed fighting in the region. Landau told the opening conference of the Maccabi movement in Haifa that Israel would launch a campaign against the supply of advanced weaponry to its adversaries.

Morning Press Comment

TA150828Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Feb 78 TA

[Review of the morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] Most of the papers discuss Israeli-U.S. relations and especially the White House announcement about a combined supply of planes to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

DAVAR writes that the announcement presages a turn in U.S. policy on weapons supplies to the Middle East, and this is reflected in two ways. For the first time, Egypt has broken the barrier of the U.S. refusal to sell it offensive weapons, and the supply of weapons to Israel has been linked to a parallel supply, although not of equal value, to Egypt. The deal gives a new dimension to the considerations about producing a new generation of fighter planes by Israel's aircraft industry, instead of simply relying on the U.S. source. Independent production does require an agreement on a package deal.

The Jerusalem POST says that the U.S. decision on the package deal is dangerous, but what is more grave is the U.S. refusal to equip Israel with the quantity of planes it had asked for. All this will have a significant effect on the balance of arms. As a result Israel will be less open to taking on itself risks in the negotiations, and President as-Sadat will harden his position, believing that the United States will impose its positions on Israel.

In the view of HAZOFE, Israel will have to redouble its efforts to make the members of the U.S. Congress and public opinion in the United States aware of the dangers involved in arming Egypt and Saudi Arabia with the offensive and sophisticated U.S. weapons. It is also essential to make the members of Congress and public opinion aware of the aims concealed behind President Carter's administration. The deal the administration is proposing is combined with its attempts to put pressure on Israel to concede on matters which are entrenched in the country's soul.

'AL HAMISHMAR thinks that the planes deal should be regarded with utmost gravity, particularly now, when there is still a chance for a political settlement. The creation of a precedent of supplying U.S. weapons to Arab countries bordering on Israel indicates an extreme and grave change in U.S. policy. Public opinion in Israel, in all respects, sees this decision as a hard blow at Israel. However, it is impossible to free the current cabinet from the responsibility for the degeneration in the relations with the United States.

Afternoon Press Comment

TA151010Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Feb 78 TA

[Review of the afternoon press editorials]

[Text] YEDI'OT AHARONOT writes that the impression is that the United States and Israel have decided to halt the vociferous debate that has erupted between them. The paper asks for what purpose do Egypt and Saudi Arabia require up-to-date fighter aircraft, when they are saying that they desire peace. It is not clear, the paper maintains, whether we would not be better off if we eschewed additional U.S. weapons for the IDF, if such a step could prevent the sale of arms to Egypt and to Saudi Arabia.

MA'ARIV says that if Israel had good reasons in the past to believe that the Washington administration would use the supply of defensive arms to Israel as a lever for extorting political concessions, the triple aircraft package deal has now come and strengthened this assumption even more. The U.S. Government desires to persuade us and the U.S. public opinion that a supply of arms to the Arabs will enhance peace in the region. The exact opposite is true. The paper hopes that the prime minister will today voice the appropriate arguments when he makes this concern of ours public.

SHARON SAID TO EXCEED AUTHORITY ON SETTLEMENTS

TA141529Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Nahum Barne'a]

[Excerpts] The defense minister's instruction to freeze Minister Sharon's settlement project in Sinai was only implemented a week after it was given. This was learned yesterday from reliable sources.

The delay in the implementation of Weizman's instructions, which came after consultations with the prime minister, created the impression that Sharon had exceeded his authority. This impression is also based on differences in the past between government decisions on settlement issues and their implementation in the field on Minister Sharon's instructions.

Television correspondent Yigal Goren said yesterday that at Minister Sharon's instructions, water towers were set up in several places in central Sinai. The towers were erected in places which have no water. The aim was to lay a claim to the places. Bedouin guards were put in charge of the water towers. With respect to this, it was learned yesterday that the towers were erected in Bi'r Hasanah, (Kantilah), Qusaymah and Bi'r Hamadah. The combination of places where the towers were erected show that Sharon wanted to create facts along the Al-'Arish-At-Tur line or the Al-'Arish-Ras Muhammad line. This means having a hold over the region between the two areas of Israeli settlement in Sinai, from the outskirts of Al-'Arish in the north to Sharm ash-Shaykh in the south.

MINISTER HOROWITZ COMMENTS ON SETTLEMENTS

TA141300Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 14 Feb 78 p 5 TA

[Excerpt] (ITIM) "There is no intention to stop or put an end to any Jewish settlement or to transfer Jewish settlers in buses to places other than those in which they are now located.

"Jews have been able and will be able to remain in Judaea, Samaria, the Rafah approaches and Sharm ash-Shaykh, and we will not stop carrying out any development plan that has already received approval, including the development of tourism branches and beach facilities for tourists."

This was declared by Mr Yig'al Horowitz, the industry, commerce and tourism minister, in answer to journalists' questions at a meeting held in Bet Agron in Jerusalem yesterday.

Mr Horowitz said this in connection with the condition of the tourism branch and in view of the hoteliers' intention to increase the fees for services given to tourists.

PLAN TO LAUNCH NEW SINAI SETTLEMENT REPORTED

TA141652Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Feb 78 p 6 TA

[By Eli Danon]

[Text] Members of the "Zaharon" nucleus, which is near Nevi'ot, in southern Sinai, intend to begin ground-breaking efforts on land which has been earmarked for them 3 km south of Nevi'ot even if they do not get approval from the settlement authorities.

The members of the nucleus arrived at the site 6 months ago as part of a comprehensive plan of the Jewish Agency and the settlement movement to establish two additional settlements on the outskirts of Nevi'ot, based on agriculture and tourism. Meanwhile, they have been living in trailers and using the services provided by Moshav Nevi'ot.

The initiative to commence ground-breaking efforts comes from the members of the action committee of the southern Sinai settlements, who have expressed disappointment over the government's attitude toward settlements in that part of the country.

KNESSET GROUP CALLS FOR EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT

TA141949Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Feb 78 TA

[Text] A group of fervent supporters of Eretz Yisra'el in the Knesset held a meeting with members of the Greater Israel Movement and with Gush Emunim.

Later they announced that they are calling for the establishment of an emergency government that will move to incorporate in the State of Israel all settlements established in Eretz Yisra'el in accordance with government decisions to insure their future under Israeli sovereignty.

The group is led by MK Ge'ula Kohen and MK Moshe Shamir, who spoke today about the collapse of the government's foreign and defense policy--a policy based on Mr Begin's peace plan.

TREASURY NOT TO INCREASE SETTLEMENT EXPENDITURES

TA150923Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich has issued instructions that state expenditures for settlements not be increased. The increase was requested by Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon. Our correspondent says Minister Ehrlich had issued the instructions before leaving for his visit to South Africa.

MINISTER PAT: CONCESSIONS ENDANGER SECURITY

TA142127Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 14 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Minister of Construction Gid'on Pat said this evening that in the negotiations with Egypt, Israel has made far-reaching concessions to the extent that they pose a security danger. However, if our peace proposal is not accepted, Minister Pat said, we do not have to stick to it. Mr Pat, who made a speech in Haifa this evening, pointed out that a visit to Jerusalem and to the Knesset cannot be regarded as a significant contribution to peace.

Mr Pat added that recently Israel had received another reminder from the terrorist organizations. He expressed surprise that friendly countries still consider that organizations which tried to poison their children deserve self-determination.

KAHANA, GUSH EMUNIM PLAN NEW HEBRON SETTLEMENT

TA141912Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Rabbi Me'ir Kahana has announced that members of his movement and of Gush Emunim would settle in the Haddassah building in Hebron in 5 days. He said he invited the prime minister and the mayor of Hebron to attend the ceremony. If his men are arrested, Rabbi Kahana said, all will realize that Mr Begin has misled the nation with his proclamations about continuing the establishment of settlements. He said, at the same time, that there will be no physical opposition if the IDF is employed to remove his men. Rabbi Kahana was speaking to correspondents in Tel Aviv.

PERES BRIEFS BEGIN ON TALKS WITH AS-SADAT

TA141723Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres met this afternoon with Prime Minister Menahem Begin and reported to him on the talk he had with the Egyptian president in Austria last Saturday. At the end of the meeting which lasted for more than an hour, Mr Peres told our political correspondent, Shalom Qital that in his view a formula can still be found which will solve the problem of the settlements in Sinai. With respect to the Palestinian issue as well, there are formulas likely to lead to a solution.

MK Peres also said that in his view we are at the beginning of a debate with the United States. He thinks, however, that the relationship between us and Washington is such as to permit a debate between the two countries. Every effort should be made to bring King Husayn into the process, added the Labor Party Chairman. As for President as-Sadat's invitation to visit Cairo, Mr Peres said he intended to make use of it, and he himself invited members of the Egyptian Socialist Party to come to Israel.

PERES COMMENTS ON EUROPE VISIT, AS-SADAT TALKS

TA1415llY Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Feb 78 p 2 TA

[Text] (ITIM)--The chairman of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres, said yesterday that it became clear during his meeting with President as-Sadat that there are real and substantive differences of opinion. However, not all efforts to find a solution have been exhausted and negotiations should continue until a reasonable chance is achieved. [as published]

Peres made his remarks upon his return from Vienna yesterday afternoon on an El Al plane, at the end of a weeklong visit to West Germany, where he participated in the Socialist International's Congress, and to Austria. He pointed out that he would not discuss the details of his meeting with As-Sadat before reporting to the prime minister.

Peres said that he could not say that everyone supported our positions. There is both criticism and support and he does not propose ignoring either the friendly remarks or the criticism leveled against us.

To the question about whether he could state that Bonn was consistently and clearly undergoing a process of moving toward support for the Arab side, including the PLO, he said that he could not say this. He did say that As-Sadat gained a lot of prestige in the wake of his visit to Jerusalem and that there is now criticism of settlements. "To the best of my understanding this is more against a German background than against an Israeli background. [as published] Willy Brandt and Chancellor Schmidt did not discuss a Palestinian state or recognition of the PLO with me," he said.

In reply to another question, Peres said that usually negotiations are a long and difficult process. He mentioned that when the disengagement negotiations were being conducted in 1974 and 1975 it appeared from time to time that we had reached the end of the line but we found solutions in the end. Things will take time and until we reach an understanding with Egypt we have to know that there is still an Arab rejectionist front and there can only be peace with some of the Arab countries. The difficulties that we face also face President As-Sadat, less, perhaps, on the bilateral level and more on the pan-Arab level.

Further on Peres was asked about President Carter's proposal that the Palestinians participate in the determination of their future. He answered that such a formula could serve as the basis for a compromise between us and Egypt. He also pointed out that the European countries, and especially West Germany, played a part in the Middle East peace efforts. "It would not be wise for the Egyptians to be saying this while we ignore it. We cannot turn our backs on Europe," he said.

The chairman of the Labor Party claimed that on all occasions he said that he is the representative of the Labor Party only and that it is the government that is conducting the negotiations. To the question of whether he would go to Cairo in connection with As-Sadat's invitation, Peres said that it would be desirable for there to be open gates between us before there is a formal agreement.

As for his talk with As-Sadat, Peres agreed to reveal that he had pointed out the positions that, more or less, unite all the people without going into party differences. For his part, he agreed to explain his positions and his reasons for these positions.

As for the sale of German arms to Syria, Peres' German colleagues repeated the claim that it was the French who sold the arms without getting approval from the German Government.

POST Report on Comments

TA151020Y Jerusalem POST in English 15 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Asher Wallfish, Jerusalem POST Knesset reporter]

[Text] Alinement leader Shim'on Peres said yesterday that President Anwar as-Sadat gave first priority to the formulation of a declaration of principles governing negotiations over Judaea and Samaria and the issue of Sinai came second.

Speaking to reporters in the Knesset building, after he had briefed Premier Menahem Begin for some 75 minutes on his conversation with As-Sadat in Austria, Peres said that even though a serious crisis had suspended negotiations between Israel and Egypt, President as-Sadat--like Begin--was resolved to carry on.

The shuttle diplomacy of Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton would take the negotiations forward in the meantime, Peres said. The problem is that both Israel and Egypt are vying with each other to swing the honest American broker closer to their respective points of view.

Peres said that As-Sadat had been under the impression that his visit to Jerusalem would save negotiating time and reduce arguments. Now he realizes that he had been wrong.

He said As-Sadat was concerned that the negotiations were dragging out because of the difficulties which had cropped up. From the Egyptian leader's point of view, various public statements and the Sinai settlements issue had done little to help.

Peres said that As-Sadat had given him a very detailed explanation of his attitude to all the elements of the negotiations and the motives which lie behind that attitude. As-Sadat had told him he was charting a course which took account of his negotiations with Israel on the one hand, and his confrontation with the rejection front Arabs on the other.

His talk with As-Sadat, said Peres, convinced him that Israel must keep on negotiating unflaggingly with regard to the Sinai. The possible solutions have not yet been exhausted, he believed. Israel must look for new formulas which would satisfy its concern for security. The land was not as important as security, he said. Israel should also do its best to get King Husayn into the negotiations.

Peres said he hoped to visit Egypt at President As-Sadat's invitation after Pessah, with Begin's approval.

The Alinement leader reported to Begin on his conversation with As-Sadat from full notes, which he apparently jotted down immediately after the Salzburg meeting.

Peres had already spoken to Begin three times concerning the meeting with As-Sadat--twice on phone to Geneva, before and after the conversation, and again on Monday night here when he set up yesterday's briefing.

TWO KILLED, MANY WOUNDED IN JERUSALEM BUS EXPLOSION

TA142116Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 14 Feb 78 TA

[Text] There was an explosion on a bus in Jerusalem this evening on Zefanya road in the Ge'ula quarter. Two people were killed and 35 were injured. The injuries of 30 of them were described as light to moderate and 5 sustained serious injuries. They have been hospitalized in Sha'are Zedeq Hospital.

The bus was full. The charge exploded at the back of the bus and tore out the back panel. Police and Magen David Adom [Israel Red Shield] arrived within a few minutes. There was a large crowd in the area but it obeyed police instructions and did not disturb the evacuation.

The commander of the Jerusalem police, Assistant Commander Zevi Ben Eliyahu, wishes to warn the public of the possibility of additional explosions in buses. This morning the police also issued a warning on this.

Later Report

TA150340Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Last night in Jerusalem the name of one of the people killed in the bus explosion in the Ge'ula neighborhood was released for publication. It is (Katri'el Blumenfeld), 41, an inhabitant of the neighborhood. He left behind a wife and three children. His funeral will leave the Sha'arei Zedeq Hospital this morning at 1000 for the cemetery. The name of the second person killed has not yet been released for publication.

In last night's explosion 43 of the bus passengers were injured. Most of them were released during the night to their homes, but seven of the injured were still in the Sha'arei Zedeq Hospital this morning. Two of them are children, whose condition is not serious. The condition of the other injured, three boys and a girl, has been described as not serious.

Last night the PLO announced that it was responsible for the explosion in Jerusalem. This was reported by the terrorist news agency in Beirut.

STUDENTS PETITION BEGIN FOR RETURN TO 1967 BORDERS

TA141902Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Feb 78 TA

[Text] About 400 Israeli University students handed a petition to the prime minister calling for a withdrawal to the 1967 borders and granting the Palestinians the right to self-determination in return for genuine peace. The students, who claim to have participated in the Yom Kippur war, say they do not wish to fight again with the feeling that an opportunity to avoid war has been missed.

The soliciting of signatures for this petition was begun about a month ago, following the suspension of the Political Committee talks in Jerusalem. About 400 signatures were collected before it was delivered.

SHAH CONGRATULATES SYRIA'S AL-ASAD ON REELECTION

LD111200Y Teheran PARS in English 1108 GMT 11 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah Aryamehr sent a message of congratulations to President Hafiz al-Asad on his reelection as president of the Syrian Arab Republic on Friday afternoon.

BRAZILIAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES IN TEHERAN

PY141348Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1127 GMT 14 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Teheran, 14 Feb--It was officially reported that an eight-member delegation of high-ranking Brazilian officials, presided over by Foreign Ministry Secretary General R.S. Guerreiro, arrived here yesterday to continue economic negotiations.

During the talks they will continue to analyze projects mentioned in a protocol signed by the two nations in June of last year during the second session of the joint commission.

Brazil is interested in technical and financial cooperation with Iran in various fields, such as railroads or aluminum exploitation.

Guerreiro, who will leave for Tokyo on Friday, will meet here with Iranian Foreign Minister Abas Ali Khalatbari, Economic Affairs Minister Hushang Ansari, directors of the Iranian National Oil Company, the planning and budget organization, the steel corporation and the Agricultural Development Bank.

BRIEFS

ECONOMIC TALKS WITH SENEGAL--Teheran, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--The first round of talks between economic officials of Iran and the visiting economic delegation of Senegal started on Thursday morning. During the talks, the two sides discussed technical and economic cooperation between the two countries. The Iranian delegation was headed by the minister of economics and financial affairs, Mohammad Yeganeh and the Senegalese minister of plan and cooperation, Ousmane Seck; and the minister of industrial development, Louis Alexalerenne, headed their delegation. The Senegalese delegation, which arrived in Teheran on Wednesday evening for a 5-day visit at the invitation of Mr Yeganeh, will meet the Imperial Court minister, Amir-Abas Hoveyda; the managing director of NIOC, Hushang Ansari; and the minister of industries and mines, Reza Amin, during their stay in Teheran. [Text] [Teheran PARS in English 1010 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD]

INDIA

VAJPAYEE RETURNS, COMMENTS ON SYDNEY CONFERENCE

BK150919Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, who returned to New Delhi this morning after attending the business sessions of the conference, told newsmen that the Syndey meeting has been worthwhile.

Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee said for the first time countries as diverse as India with a population of over 600 million and Nauru with only 7,000 people met as equals to discuss frankly and freely problems pertaining to this region. The conference was marked by informality and it brought out a desire on the part of the participating countries to increase trade with each other.

India supported the Malaysian proposal for reserving labor-intensive industries requiring low grade technology for developing countries. It has also been agreed that the countries of the region will exchange information on developing alternative sources of energy. India has offered help in the field of biogas.

Replying to questions, Mr Valpayee said the bomb blast at the Hilton Hotel did not overshadow the conference. He said while at this stage it is not possible to identify the group responsible for the explosions, the Ananda Margis have betrayed a guilty conscience by attempting to blame the Soviet KGB and India's CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] for the incident.

TIMES COMMENTS ON PRC VICE PREMIER'S VISIT, RELATIONS

BK131505Y Bombay TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Feb 78 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "Mr Teng's Visit"]

[Text] Not even the most acerbic critic of a Sino-Indian rapprochement can deny that the statements made by the Chinese vice premier, Mr Teng Hsiao-ping, in the course of his 3-day visit to Nepal indicate a firm, though guarded desire on Peking's part to mend its fences with this country. It is true that in the absence of any threat to Nepal's integrity, Mr Teng's repeated references to that country's successes in safeguarding its "independence and sovereignty" were at best superflous and at worst a thinly disguised criticism of New Delhi. It is equally true that in wholeheartedly endorsing Nepal's proposal to declare that country as a zone of peace, Mr Teng disregarded India's susceptibilities in the matter. He must have know only too well the Indian view of its security requirements. Similarly, this country would be well justified in interpreting Mr Teng's refusal to support any scheme of regional cooperation among the countries of South Asia as a sop to Pakistan, which does not for the moment favour the proposal. But what else Mr Teng has said or left unsaid leaves little room for doubt that Peking is now prepared to strengthen Sino-Indian ties. Witness his unequivocal statement that China is "Eager" to bring relations with this country closer on a bilateral basis or that the South Asian people have "condemned and opposed the fierce hegemonistic rivalry (between the two superpowers)". This is, of course, an indirect way of saying not so much that in Peking's eyes the present government in New Delhi is less amiably disposed towards the Soviet Union than its predecessor, as that China accepts New Delhi's claim that it will not allow its relations with one country to interfere in its relations with another. Equally significant is Mr Teng's remark that "relations among South Asian countries have gradually improved...."

The significance of the remark would be obvious from the fact that in the past Peking has accused this country of fomenting trouble in the region to promote Moscow's "hegemonistic ambitions" and its own "expansionist plans". Then again, in view of New Delhi's known stand on including only Nepal and Bangladesh in any joint scheme to harness the rivers in the eastern region of the subcontinent, it can only welcome Mr Teng's caution and circumspection in the matter. Equally noteworthy is the absence of any reference in Mr Teng's speeches to the Sino-Indian border issue, which must be kept on the back burner so long as the necessary measure of mutual trust is not gradually built up between New Delhi and Peking. Meanwhile, New Delhi can respond to the Chinese vice premier's statements with some positive gesture like granting Chinese diplomats travel and other facilities it extends to envoys from other communist countries. It can also allow the sale and distribution of Chinese literature on terms that are offered to other countries.

TIMES COMMENTS ON VAJPAYEE VISIT TO PAKISTAN

BK131459Y Bombay TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Feb 78 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "Modest Gains"]

[Text] Though its tangible gains have been manifestly modest, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee is right in describing his visit to Pakistan--the first by an Indian minister to that country in 12 years--as eminently worthwhile. It is no small achievement for someone who used to be the main exponent of the Jana Sangh's policy towards Pakistan to go Islamabad as a credible harbinger of peace, goodwill and cooperation. No less remarkable is the manner in which he has conveyed to the Pakistanis the Janata government's and his own irrevocable commitment to the Simla agreement or has dealt with their apprehensions on a variety of subjects, ranging from nuclear-free zones to the Salal project. He went out of his way to reassure his hosts about this country's unwillingness to force the pace, even on such beneficial issues as mutual or regional economic cooperation, especially the shah of Iran's suggestion for an Asian common market. Mr Vajpayee also did well to put India-Pakistan relations within the perspective of this country's attempt to improve relations with all neighbours on a basis of equality and a respect for each other's sovereignty. As was only to be expected, both general Ziaul Haq and his adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, raised in their conversations with Mr Vajpayee the question of Kashmir to which his answer has been as straighforward and constructive as the rest of his talks with the Pakistani leaders. Under the Simla accord, the solution of the Kashmir issue must succeed, not precede, the full normalisation of relations and in the meantime, both sides must hold fast to the spirit of the Simla agreement. This implies that both countries must abjure the use of force completely and seek to resolve all their problems through bilateral negotiations.

All together, both sides have a clearer understanding now of each other's point of view and this process of mutual understanding should be fostered further by such decisions as the stationing of correspondents by the two countries a more frequent exchange of visits, liberalisation of visa regulations and a fresh boost to trade. But while all this is undoubtedly welcome, the question does arise whether better results could not have achieved by choosing a more appropriate time for the external affairs minister's visit to Pakistan. It is possible, indeed probable, that continuing political undertainly in that country--no one knows whether the present regime will be able to contain Mr Bhutto, when the elections will be held and with what result--had much to do with General Ziaul Haq's reluctance to deal with specific proposals for a breakthrough in India-Pakistan relations.

Indeed, it is only in this context that Mr Vajpayee's own declaration that he had no package of proposals with him and that his was essentially a goodwill visit makes sense. Another point on which more light needs to be shed before the real worth of Mr Vajpayee's mission to Pakistan can be assessed is the vexed question of inflow of arms into Pakistan. According to published reports, the Pakistanis seem to have raised the issue of India's naval power. But nothing has been heard so far about the reasons why Pakistan is continuing to acquire or seek offensive weapons, notably sophisticated aircraft.

PATRIOT CRITICIZES UK OFFICIAL'S IMMIGRATION STANCE

BK151256Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1050 GMT 15 Feb 78 BK

[From the press review]

[Text] The PATRIOT laments the fact that Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the lady who aspires to become Britain's first woman prime minister, is running a vicious campaign against colored immigration in that country. It says that when Mrs Thatcher first made a public promise 2 months ago to put an end to immigration, she said that she would not make this an election issue, but she soon forgot what she said.

Addressing a Young Conservative conference on Sunday, she said that we have to work toward the ending of immigration in Britain and we have to have the policies to do so. Her speech clearly indicated that she was going to make race relations the central campaign issue in the general election this year. As time passes her voice will become more strident in order to consolidate the conservative following and catch the wavering elements in the British population. This is why she is talking of changing policies.

The paper adds the Labor Party leaders have already pointed out that immigration is already limited and the rate is progressively falling. At present there is less than 4 percent colored population in Britain, and if it is treated with sympathy and understanding, it will soon learn the culture of its adopted homeland. But Mrs Thatcher and her friends want to exploit these people as a vote-catching issue. They do not realize that they are really encouraging racist and neofascist elements in political life, which ultimately will threaten their democratic institutions.

NEPAL

DUGERSUREN DEPARTS 14 FEB; PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED

BK141525Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 14 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The foreign minister of the Mongolian People's Republic, Mr Mangalyn Dugersuren, was given a warm sendoff at Tribhuvan Airport by Foreign Minister Mr Krishna Raj Aryal when he left Katmandu today at the end of his 5-day official visit to Nepal. Prior to his departure he called on Prime Minister Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista at his office. Meanwhile, it has been learned that the Mongolian foreign minister has extended an invitation to Foreign Minister Mr Krishna Raj Aryal to pay an official visit to Mongolia. Mr Aryal has accepted the invitation.

According to the press statement issued in Katmandu on the visit of the Mongolian foreign minister, the two sides have reiterated the [word indistinct] of their respective governments to further develop friendly bilateral relations. They have noted the importance of contacts and exchange of views between the two countries.

SRI LANKA

DAILY NEWS REPORTS ON FOREIGN AID ASSURANCES

BK1414015Y Colombo CEYLON DAILY NEWS in English 8 Feb 78 p 1 BK

[By Patrick Cruez]

[Excerpts] Socialist, Western and Middle Eastern countries have given firm assurances to the Government of Sri Lanka of their commitment to help this country with her development program and also help her economically.

Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia have written in to the Sri Lanka Government that they are interested in participating in the accelerated Mahaveli scheme.

A senior government official said Saudi Arabia through its new ambassador had made inquiries about Saudi Arabian investment in the Free Trade Zone [FTZ].

The United States had, by an agreement signed with the Sri Lanka Government, committed U.S. $5,400,000 [as published] [rs. 83.7 million] to help this country put up urgently required paddy stores and a processing and milling project for paddy.

The Netherlands Government had already started sending Sri Lanka full cream infant milk which would enable Sri Lanka to feed 50,000 babies from the date of birth till they were 3 years old. That was an outright grant.

The British Government would be flying in shortly a consignment of good quality tarpaulin and thick polythene to help the paddy marketing board to get over paddy storage problems during the current harvest. The first consignment of 7,000 square feet of tarpaulin would come in sometime next week, he said.

The government official said the Federal Republic of Germany had also committed itself to help Sri Lanka's growing paddy storage problems. West Germany would channel its aid, which would probably come in as outright grants, through the world food program of the United Nations. Such aid would be used to put up quickly concrete stores for paddy harvested in the NCP [not further identified], he said.

The Free Trade Zone proposal was attracting interest in countries stretching from the American Continent to Japan. Japanese firms through their local agents in Sri Lanka had already begun drawing blueprints for investment in the FTZ. Saudi Arabian investors had through their ambassador resident in Delhi accredited to Sri Lanka, initiated inquiries about possible investment here in the zone. The other countries that were in contact with the government were West Germany, South Korea, France, India and the United States of America, a government spokesman said.

The chairman of the 100-ship French firm Compagnie Generale Maritime, Mr J. Friedmann, a former French civil servant, is scheduled to arrive here to discuss with Sri Lanka how his company can help in the export program of the FTZ. The French firm has started a container service from Europe to South Asia and all its container vessels will call at Colombo and Trincomalee to take consignments of exports of the zone.

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